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Hasina inciting her loyalists; we will seek extradition: Yunus

Suhasini Haidar
DHAKA

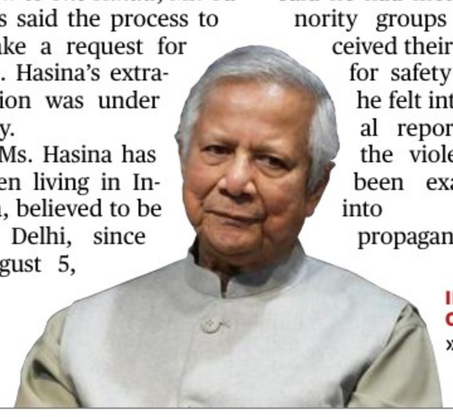
Bangladesh and India are "twins" and must have better relations, says Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser to the Interim Government. However, he warns that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whom he accused of instigating her political supporters from India, could pose a challenge to ties.

In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yunus said the process to make a request for Ms. Hasina's extradition was under way.

Ms. Hasina has been living in India, believed to be in Delhi, since August 5, when she fled protesting mobs, after months of a crackdown on student protesters that left at least 1,500 dead and thousands injured. In the weeks that followed, many supporters of her party, the Awami League, were attacked, along with targeted attacks on minorities, mainly Hindus in the country.

According to human rights groups, at least nine minority members were killed and 841 injured.

When asked, Mr. Yunus said he had met with minority groups and received their petitions for safety but that he felt international reports about the violence had been exaggerated into "pure propaganda".



INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 16

5,000 troops of Central forces for Manipur to quell violence

20-year-old man killed in a 'confrontation' between a special commando team and protesters in violence-affected Jiribam district; body of one more abducted woman recovered from Barak river; curfew extended in three Imphal valley districts

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/DELHI

The Union Home Ministry said on Monday that 50 additional companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), comprising nearly 5,000 personnel, would be deployed in Manipur in the next few days amid violence and killings in the State.

A 20-year-old man was killed and another injured during a "reported confrontation" between a special commando team and protesters in the restive Jiribam district. The State government on Monday constituted a two-member panel to investigate the death following mass resignation by office-bearers of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, mostly in Jiribam district, over the prevailing "unwelcome and helpless situation".

On Sunday night, a mob attacked the offices of the BJP and Congress in Jiribam town close to the boundary with Assam, prompting the police to allegedly open fire. Khundrakpam Athouba died of gunshot wounds. K. Bishan, 26, was injured.

The government extended the ban on Internet and mobile data in seven districts by two days. Jiribam is not among these districts. The curfew in Imphal East, Imphal West, and Bishnupur districts was extended.

At the ready: Army and Assam Rifles personnel deployed on security duties in Manipur on Monday. PTI

Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation for the second consecutive day. "The Minister conducted a detailed review with senior officials in Delhi and also reviewed the deployment of the security forces in Manipur," an official said.

An official of the Manipur government said the body of a 25-year-old woman, likely the sixth victim from the Meitei family abducted by miscreants from Jiribam on November 11, was found in the Barak river in Assam.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Shah must resign, Modi should visit State: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday demanded Union Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation over the Centre's "failure" to resolve the division between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.

The party urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Manipur and address an all-party delegation from the State.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Church Street closed to traffic for a week

BENGALURU
Church Street was closed to traffic on Monday and this will continue for a week, as a private non-profit organisation, which has adopted the road for two years, has taken up repair works. » PAGE 2

HC pushes for responsible use of language

BENGALURU
Virtues like maintaining decency, decorum, and responsible use of language by political leaders in public speeches have become scarce and dear these days, observed the High Court of Karnataka. » PAGE 6

As Delhi chokes, SC orders all curbs to stay till it lifts them; slams CAQM for delayed action

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Slamming the Commission on Air Quality Management (CAQM) for delayed action even as pollution choked the national capital, the Supreme Court on Monday directed that Stage IV of the Graded Response Plan (GRAP) should continue even if the Air Quality Index (AQI) fell below the "severe-plus" threshold of 450.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Augustine George Masih said the CAQM, rather than taking pre-emptive action, waited in vain for the air to improve. The Bench ordered *status quo* on the heightened restrictions against air pollution until it issued further directions.

Though the Delhi government said it had stoppesd construction work in the capital, lawyers alerted the Bench to building work happening even within the court complex. They said the AQI in the courtroom was 994. Justice Oka summoned the Supreme Court Secretary-General to read him GRAP-IV restrictions.

In its order, the court noted that the AQI had crossed 400 on November 12, and instead of immediately directing the implementation of GRAP-III, the CAQM waited for 24 hours till November 14. The same had happened in the kicking-in of GRAP-IV.

"When AQI crossed 450 at 6 p.m. on November 13, CAQM directed its implementation from November 18," Justice Oka said. The court found the approach of the CAQM "completely wrong". "They [the CAQM] wrongly anticipated the AQI to come down. This court's direction on October 29, 2018, was to take pre-emptive steps, and not wait for improvement of AQI to implement restrictions," the court observed.

Bad air: Smog envelops Delhi on Monday as air quality remained in the 'severe' category. Schools have since been ordered to switch to online classes. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Plan to track farm fires may be flawed, say experts

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Amid reports of a five-year decline in instances of stubble burning in Punjab, experts suggest that the current approach to tracking farm fires may lead to under-reporting.

The data on fire counts are from a heat-sensing instrument on two American satellites - Suomi-NPP and NOAA-20 polar-orbiting satellites.

While the satellites map any particular location twice in 24 hours, they can miss res that are set and extinguished outside the period of tracking.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 14

Gahlot joins BJP, denies AAP's claims

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Minister Kailash Gahlot joined the BJP on Monday, a day after tendering his resignation from the AAP. Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Delhi BJP election incharge Baijayant Panda, welcomed Mr. Gahlot to the party.

While Mr. Gahlot's resignation came as a surprise to the AAP, the party said he had been under pressure from the BJP.

Mr. Gahlot dismissed speculation over external pressures forcing his decision.

"I have never worked under pressure. The narrative being created about me is completely wrong," he said.

Senior BJP functionaries have said that Mr. Gahlot's resignation would prompt others to follow suit.

Nirmala allays growth dip worries

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Seeking to quell anxieties about a slowdown in the economy, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the Union government was fully aware of domestic and global challenges and there was "no cause for undue concern".

She batted for lower interest rates to spur private investments, while acknowledging that perishable vegetables continue to pose an inflation risk.

Acknowledging that there has been moderation in some economic indicators, Ms. Sitharaman, brushed them aside, and said India's economy remained resilient, underpinned by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, moderating inflation, robust external position, and continued fiscal consolidation that have reinforced confidence among consumers and businesses.

Nirmala Sitharaman

"I need to address the concerns arising from recent signs of moderation in certain economic indicators. The concerns are there... Whilst I acknowledge the remarkable growth trajectory and promising prospects of the Indian economy, it is also important to address the concern... let me assure you that the government is fully aware of the challenges posed by domestic and global factors," the Minister said at the SBI Banking and Economics Conclave.

The remarks assume significance in light of slackening momentum in the economy, marked by faltering urban demand and weak corporate results for the second quarter that some economists have even posited as a "cyclical slowdown". "There is no cause for undue concern. Recent high-frequency indicators also reflect sustained growth momentum," she said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

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Chief Guest

Shri. H. K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation & Tourism, Government of Karnataka

Events for the day
- Release of Coffee table book - Brushes & Beyond
- Distribution of Service Awards and Recognition of Achievers
- Cultural Evening

Date: 19 November 2024 | **Time:** 4:00 PM onwards
Venue: CMR Institute of Technology, Dwani Auditorium, 132, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560037

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Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy — President, CMR Jnanadhara Trust & Chancellor, CMR University
Shri. K C Jagannath Reddy — Secretary, CMR Jnanadhara Trust
Shri. Jayadeep K R Reddy — Director, Ekya Schools, CEO, CMR Group of Institutions, Pro-Chancellor, CMR University
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A BG-BGE

SUDHAKARA JAIN

Tanvi Patri – Indian badminton's latest rising star

The 13-year-old from Odisha has tasted astonishing success in the last few months, winning the Asian U-15 crown, and the U-15 and U-17 national titles; coaches believe that if Tanvi can make good on her promise, sky is the limit

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

At the entrance of the sprawling Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru, a giant billboard showcasing the best achievements of the Centre's wards welcomes visitors. Some of India's most noted athletes, including Lakshya Sen, have had their photos splashed across, lending an additional circle of light to their already luminous halo.

The latest to be given this prize of place is Tanvi Patri, the 13-year-old from Odisha who won the Asian U-15 girls' singles title at Chengdu, China in August. A month later, at the sub-junior Nationals in Chennai, the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) trainee clinched the U-15 and U-17 singles titles. Such was her dominance that in China she did not lose a single game across five matches. In Chennai, she dropped one across 12.

To be fair, Tanvi is not the first Indian girl to triumph in Asia in recent times; Samiya Imad Farooqui and Tasnim Mir have both notched up victories, in 2017 and 2019 respectively.

But what's astonishing about Tanvi's success is her quality to not fall off the emotional cliff after winning one big tournament. It is this repeatability, coupled with the desire to constantly improve, that is perhaps telling her coaches and parents that she is really made for the big stage.

Tanvi has had a beginning in badminton unlike many others'. She picked up the game as a six-year-old in China, where her father Rabinarayan Patri was working for an IT firm near Shanghai. A recreational player in his college days, Rabinarayan started playing the racquet sport in China and Tanvi just followed him. With English-medium schools hard to find, Tanvi played sport full-time while being home-schooled by her mother, Sailabala Panda, also an IT professional.

Strong foundation

"Till around eight-and-half years, she worked very hard," Rabinarayan tells *The Hindu*. "We practised almost daily. Not only badminton, but even swimming and skating. The infrastructure there was outstanding and they were very welcoming. She won practically every badminton tournament she played, all the way up to the U-12 category.

"I then found a couple of coaches there and they were very good. She received the basic foundation from them. It was not a very big academy; more like a club. But those two coaches had enough time

SUDHAKARA JAIN

and they spent that with Tanvi".

When they saw Tanvi developing quickly, her training was shifted to Shanghai where there were senior coaches. They drove Tanvi 60 odd kilometres daily to Shanghai, made her train for five to six hours and got her back home in the evening. This went on for well over two years and celebrated Chinese coach Jiang Yong Yi, who has tutored many Olympic and World medallists, was among Tanvi's early trainers.

When the family had to return to India after Covid struck, it was this rigorous mentoring that held Tanvi in good stead. Jiang, in fact, has made multiple visits to the PPBA to conduct coaching clinics, for the legendary Prakash Padukone and Dronacharya Awardee and PPBA director Vimal Kumar hold Jiang in high regard. In 2022, Rabinarayan sent a few videos of Tanvi for enrollment at PPBA and she was quickly absorbed after a few trial sessions.

Fearless and error-free

"It was her ability to play without making mistakes that impressed us," recollects Vimal. "This is what we observed in Lakshya, Saina [Nehwal] and others. Even at a very small age, even when they did not have the strength, they somehow managed to keep the shuttle inside the court. The second thing we liked was the temperament. One should not be scared about playing anybody. That thrill was there, to just play and compete". To punch above her weight and compete to higher age categories without fear is something Tanvi has done splendidly so far. It is a trait that binds her to the very best in Indian badminton - Saina and P.V. Sindhu.

In fact on Sunday, Tanvi made the final in her maiden senior tournament, the CM Trophy India International Challenge in Raipur, before losing to over three close games to Rakshitha Ramraj, four years her senior. From the qualifying rounds, she won seven matches in all, including the straight-games semifinal victory over 20-year-old Isharani Baruah, one of the best Indian youngsters.

"Tanvi has that staying power," opines Vimal. "Badminton is fast and intense. After you play a long rally, you are breathing to be normal for the next two or three points before gathering yourself.

"But one has to understand that when you are playing a tough rally, your opponent will also be gasping for breath. In that next point, can you do better without catching a break? If you have that ability at a young age, that's a plus. That's what has helped her across age groups".

Umendra Singh Rana, a SAI coach who has been at PPBA for nearly a decade, says that Tanvi is a dream student when it comes to understanding and implementing strategies without letting competitive pressure get to her.

"She is quite a quick learner," Rana observes. "Whatever input she's getting from you [the coach], she tries it immediately in the match situation. She's also very consistent and will not make many mistakes.

"There won't be frequent changes in playing patterns which may lead to mistakes and the pressure being released. Whatever she does in practice, we can always expect her to do better in the competition. That is very rare," he adds.

Tanvi's fledgling teenage promise comes at a time when Indian women's singles is looking for the next big star after Saina and Sindhu to keep the conveyor belt of success moving. At the Uber Cup earlier this year in Chengdu, there were a few green shoots when a young team, sans Sindhu, qualified for the last eight.

Tanvi's rise is yet another green strand, and if not for her tender age and resultant ineligibility, she was even in line to be selected for the India U-19 team for the junior World Championships that were held in Nanchang (China) recently.

But Vimal, ever the man to keep his students grounded, believes Tanvi's attainments so far are at best small indicators of the seemingly endless possibilities, and that she has a mighty long way to go.

Growth opportunities

The trio of Rabinarayan, Vimal and Rana stresses that only with exposure to higher levels of competition and by playing more in countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia will Tanvi grow further.

"She needs to improve her strength," Vimal points out. "To build on anything in badminton, you have to have good endurance and she's reasonably good there. But against an opponent with a little deception, she struggles a bit. This is something you can improve with better strength.

"A good singles player should be good at the net, because only by approaching the net and playing a tight tumble does one create opportunities. She needs work there. For a small girl, the downward punch is quite good. But she can get better," he adds.

Regardless, Vimal concedes that Tanvi is quite different to the scores of girls he has coached. "Players like her [Tanvi] just *come*," he says with a smile. "The likes of Sainas, Sindhus... they just *come*. How you can help them realise their potential is the key. "There are a lot of different off-court factors, but if Tanvi can survive all that, she can be really really good. I don't know whether she will be an Olympic medallist; that is a long way to go. But the potential is there to become a very good international player".

SUDHAKARA JAIN

THE GIST

- Tanvi picked up badminton as a six-year-old in China, where her father was working. Noted coach Jiang was one of her trainers and she made a mark by winning multiple titles up to U-12 category
- The 13-year-old and her family shifted to India in 2020 after Covid struck. She joined the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) in 2022, and now trains under Dronacharya Awardee Vimal and his team
- Coaches at PPBA believe Tanvi is a quick-learner and match-aware. Her endurance and ability to stay in long rallies will keep her in good stead, they feel. Recently, she finished runner-up in her maiden senior tournament
- Tanvi can further grow and realise her potential by competing more in East Asia, and with improvements in her strength and conditioning and net game, say experts

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, NOV. 19	
RISE	06:20 SET 17:50
RISE	21:17 SET 09:43
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20	
RISE	06:20 SET 17:50
RISE	22:15 SET 10:38
THURSDAY, NOV. 21	
RISE	06:21 SET 17:50
RISE	23:10 SET 11:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Church Street closed to traffic for a week owing to a revamp

Several traders on the stretch are upset with the move and fear that any prolonged closure will hit their business

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Church Street was closed to traffic on Monday and this will continue for a week, as a private non-profit organisation, which has adopted the road for two years, has taken up repair works.

Several traders are upset with the move and fear any prolonged closure will hit their business which, they say, has already taken a hit.

Meanwhile, activists have also questioned the civic body entrusting the maintenance of the road to a private entity for two years.

UnboxingBLR Foundation, a city-based non-profit organisation, has adopted Church Street for two years under the Namma Bengaluru, Namma Koduge scheme of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), sources said.

In a statement, the foundation said it "aims to beautify and give infrastructural overhaul of Church Street. It will address road and footpath repairs, upgrade streetlights, improve garbage disposal and drainage, and add ornamental greenery". It has also adopted Richmond Road and Vittal Mallya Road and works will be taken up on these roads subsequently, sources said.

Men at work: Work under way on Church Street on Monday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

> A private agency which is part of UnboxingBLR will be executing the repair work. As the agency will be spending money from its pockets, the BBMP will save about ₹3 crore.
>
> **SNEHAL R.,**
> BBMP Zonal Commissioner

BBMP Zonal Commissioner Snehal R. said that following a MoU with the foundation, the civic body had given administrative approval for maintenance.

"A private agency which is part of UnboxingBLR will be executing the repair work. As the agency will be spending money from its pockets, the BBMP will save about ₹3 crore," she said.

Vinay Sreenivasa, member of Karnataka Pragatipara Beedi Vyaparigala Sanghatane, said it was the civic body's responsibility to maintain all streets in the city and entrusting that to any private entity is "not acceptable". He demanded that the BBMP should come clean on the project and disclose the terms and conditions of the MoU. The BBMP is yet to make any official statement.

"In the absence of a formal communication from the civic body on the MoU, there are fears of private administration of public commons. We have had examples of urban commons like parks being adopted by RWAs and imposing their own rules, which led to exclusion in these public spaces. While we do not oppose any private investment for interventions to make the life on the street better, we will oppose handing over the maintenance of a street to a private entity," he said.

Traders on Church Street have been informed that the road will be closed to traffic for six to seven days. However, many fear that the closure may be prolonged.

Krishna Gowda, of Bookworm, said that any interventions on the road should be completed in a short time and any prolonged closure would hit their business badly.

Gururaj, a owner of a restaurant, said closure means the business will go down drastically. "For the past one-and-a-half months, the business has seen a lull and the revenue has slid by at least 30%. This will further go down this week. As there are no sufficient parking spaces on nearby roads, the people will not show any interest to visit the area. The road was fine and there was no necessity for revamping it," he said. *The Hindu* had reported on falling footfall and business on Church Street recently.

Malini Goyal, co-founder, UnboxingBLR Foundation, said that at present they were focusing on repair and fixing civic issues on the road. In the second phase, they will focus on beautification and horticultural interventions.

"We will plan more interventions for the facelift of the stretch over a period and implement the same in a phased manner," she said.

HC deprecates BBMP for changing stand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

N.R. Ramesh. FILE PHOTO

The High Court of Karnataka has deprecated the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for its changed stand, contradictory to its earlier recommendation for grant of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) for acquiring land outside the city for establishing garbage treatment plant.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, made the observations while dismissing, with costs of ₹10,000, a PIL petition filed by BJP leader N.R. Ramesh, who had questioned grant of TDR to private landowners 11 years ago.

"The conduct and stand taken by the BBMP, in appearing [through its advocate] without notice and proceeding to make elaborate submissions, contrary to the State government's stance was incomprehensible. The proposal for the garbage plant was mooted by the BBMP itself," the Bench said while observing that "this aspect became indicative to suggest that the petition might be a collusive attempt to misutilise the public interest jurisdiction [of the court]".

While the State had justified the grant of TDR, the BBMP's advocate had "advanced submissions in a conflicting tenor with the stand which was taken by the State government", the Bench noted.

The Bench said that "Mr. Ramesh's *locus standi* as a public interest petitioner is also to be viewed with suspicion for the *bona fides* as the petitioner was leader of a political party, also a councillor in the BBMP, who did not raise his voice during his councillorship."

"The purposes of filling petition, at a later stage, after a gap of 11 years, may be known to him," the Bench said while while pointing out that "yawning gap of 11 years itself smacks lack of *bona fide* on part of the petitioner" as there was no whisper in his petition for the delay of 11 years.

It was alleged in the petition that acquisition of land at Kodiyala Karenahalli village, Ramanagara taluk, during 2013 in favour of the BBMP to set up a garbage treatment plant and issuance of TDR has wrongfully benefited private individuals and developers, and had caused huge loss to the exchequer.

BIS celebrates press day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru, celebrated National Press Day on Monday.

The event highlighted the media's essential role in promoting awareness about quality standards and its impact on consumer protection, safety, and national development.

Vijayaveeran K., Director, BIS, briefed the role of the BIS in setting and ensuring quality standards across various sectors. He introduced the BIS Care, an user-friendly mobile application that empowers consumers to access information on BIS-certified products and services.

PES University team shines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team from the PES University, Electronics City campus, Bengaluru, emerged winners in the State-level round of the Reserve Bank of India 90th anniversary quiz (RBI90 Quiz), conducted on November 14. The team consisted of Divyansh Sharma and D. Bhargava Rama Sarma.

A total of 180 students in 90 teams competed. Students from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru, and Dr. M.V. Shetty College of Physiotherapy, Mangaluru, bagged second and third places, respectively.

'Dementia Tech Thinkathon' on Nov. 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To address challenges faced by persons with dementia, a neurodegenerative condition, Dementia India Alliance (DIA), an NGO working to improve dementia care, will organise a 'Dementia Tech Thinkathon' in the city on November 30.

It will be held as part of a two-day international conference, DemCon'24, at the JN Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

It will provide a platform for tech start-ups and students to develop innovative solutions for dementia care. DIA president Radha S. Murthy said, "The future of dementia care is undeniably bright, and technology is the key to unlocking its potential. This thinkathon is a catalyst for groundbreaking innovations that will redefine the landscape of dementia care."

Winners of the thinkathon will receive prize money exceeding ₹2.5 lakh, along with additional support, she said.

Family caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers, senior citizens, service providers, and students in psychology, social work, and allied health can attend this event, Ms. Radha said.

The event is being organised in association with Indian Institute of Information Technology - Bangalore (IIIT-B) and Nucleus Software Engineers, a private company.

DemCon'24, with the theme 'reaching the unreached in dementia care', is aimed at bridging gaps in awareness, diagnosis, research, and care.

Registration for the Thinkathon and DemCon'24 can be done at www.demcon2024.com. The last date to register for the thinkathon is November 22. For details, contact 8585 990 990.

Varsity unveils new climate data set for India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The average annual maximum temperature will experience an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2057 under 'the middle-of-the-road' emission scenario, while the more extreme 'fossil-fueled development' emission scenario predicts this temperature rise will occur a decade earlier, by 2047.

This is one of the many key findings of the Azim Premji University's new climate data set for India, which was unveiled on Sunday.

According to the Climate Change Projections for India (2021-40) report, the projections examine two IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) scenarios: SSP2-4.5 (moderate emissions and adaptation) and SSP5-8.5 (high emissions with heavy fossil fuel reliance).

In other words, the 'middle-of-the-road' emission scenario assumes that society will take moderate steps to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, which will lead to moderate effects in the future. The 'fossil-fueled development' emission scenario presumes that society will continue to rely heavily on fossil fuels for energy, leading to a future with very high emissions and severe impacts.

A vehicle in the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. A report by the Azim Premji University has found that the western part of India will experience a significant increase in precipitation.

Another finding is that India's average summer maximum temperature will have a 1.5-degree Celsius increase by 2043, according to the 'middle of the road' emission scenario and by 2041 for the 'fossil-fueled development' emission scenario.

Under the low emission scenario, 196 districts in India will experience a summer maximum temperature increase of at least one degree, with 70 districts projected to experience a similar annual maximum temperature change.

"The highest change is expected in Leh at 1.6 degrees Celsius for both summer and annual maximum temperatures. The winter minimum temperature is projected to change by 1.5 degrees Celsius or more for 139 districts, while 611 districts will see a one degree Celsius or more temperature change," the report states

Similarly, under the high emission scenario, 249 districts will experience an annual maximum temperature change of one degree Celsius or more, and 16 districts, mostly in the Himalayan States, are projected to experience an annual maximum temp change by 1.5 degrees Celsius or more with the highest being at Leh at 1.8 degrees Celsius.

With regard to change in precipitation patterns (2021-2040), the report said that the western part of India will experience a significant increase in precipitation, compared to most of the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country.

"Change in precipitation patterns (2021-40), the arid States such as Gujarat and Rajasthan exhibit a higher annual precipitation ranging from 20% to 40% under SSP2-4.5, and a 20% to 50 % change under SSP5-8.5. Under both the scenarios, 24 to 25 districts spread across the coastal States and eastern Himalayas will experience more than 31 degree Celsius summer wet bulb temperature, posing serious threats to human health," the report said.

Seat matrix, fee details for PG medical courses out; option entry to begin today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The seat matrix and fee details for the current academic year's postgraduate (PG) medical courses were published on the Karnataka Examination Authority's (KEA) website on Monday.

Option entry preferences can be exercised by eligible candidates between 2 p.m. on Tuesday and 4 p.m. on November 22.

Results

The mock seat allotment results will be announced after 4 p.m. on November 23, and candidates will be allowed to modify their option entry choices from 4 p.m on November 23 to 4 p.m. on November 25.

Out of the total 6,310 seats that are available across 63 colleges 3,882 will be allotted through KEA, including the 2,428 under the all-India quota

"The final seat allotment results for the first round will be announced after 8 p.m. on November 26. Candidates who are allotted seats must select their choice (Choice-1 or Choice-2) between 11 a.m. on November 27 and 11.59 p.m. on November 29. Those opting for Choice-1 and Choice-2 must pay the fee by December 2. Choice-1 candidates are required to submit original documents at the KEA office and collect their admission order between November 28 and December 2. They must report to their allotted colleges by 5.30 p.m. on December 4," said KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna.

Out of the total 6,310 seats that are available across 63 colleges 3,882 of them will be allotted through the KEA, including the 2,428 under the all-India quota.

The online seat allotment process for the special stray vacancy round for unfilled undergraduate (UG) medical seats and leftover dental seats following the completion of the final round of seat allotments will commence on November 19.

The candidates who are allotted seats in this round must report to their respective colleges with all original documents by 5.30 p.m. on November 29. The detailed schedule and fee payment information are available on the KEA website.

While two seats are currently available in UG medical, 35 seats are available in dental courses.

'Financial inclusion in India has been revolutionised by digital innovation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) on Monday launched the second edition of its flagship two-day event, the 'International Symposium on Financial Inclusion, Digital Innovation, and Sustainability' on its campus.

The event brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and academics to discuss how fintech innovations can revolutionise access to financial services, especially for under served communities.

A file photo of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore.

"Financial inclusion in India has been revolutionised by digital innovation, enabling millions to access services that were once out of reach. From the introduction of Aadhaar, which gave 1.3 billion people a digital identity, to the widespread use of AEPS, which allows secure transactions in even the most remote villages, India has set a global example. These advancements have broken down barriers, making banking accessible and empowering under served populations to participate in the financial system like never before," said Rajesh Bansal, CEO, RBI Innovation Hub.

He also said the trinity of JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-mobile), UPI (Unified Payments Interface), and ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform) is playing a major role in shaping India's fintech ecosystem.

There were also various panel discussions on topics like 'digitalisation and financial inclusion' and 'innovations and business models for sustainability'.

How sustainable is India's path to net-zero with 45 years left?

Power demand in India could increase ten-fold by 2070. Meeting it entirely via renewable energy is possible if India's only priority is to expand renewable energy generation capacity, but it also has to maintain food and nutritional security, increase forest cover, and preserve biodiversity

Ramya Natarajan
Kaveri Ashok

Major hurdle: This April 1 photograph shows a general view of the Parsa East Kente Basan coal mine in Surguja district, Chhattisgarh. AFP

Every year, climate action draws significant attention in the months leading up to the United Nations' annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COPs). But the outcome of the 2024 U.S. presidential election will likely have a greater impact on the planet's climate future than COP-29 itself, illustrating an important challenge in combating climate change: operationalising global cooperation towards a common cause even when national interests don't align with it.

For example, an economically developed country with sufficient resources per capita may not find it necessary to change course – whereas a populous and developing country like India will. A few COPs ago, India committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. Since then, it has implemented several policies while others are in the works to support this transition. It is widely acknowledged that this journey will not be without challenges, especially financial ones. However, other resource constraints such as land or water availability also matter, limiting the choices available for a sustainable long-term pathway for India.

Why net-zero at all?

With each passing day, climate change is becoming more evident. The scientific consensus is that to avoid devastating and irreversible consequences, the world must keep the global average annual surface temperature rise to within 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. The current increase is at least 1.1 °C over that in 1880.

The Sixth Assessment Report of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that from 2020, the remaining (cumulative) global carbon budget for a 50-67% chance of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 °C is 400-500 billion tonnes (Gt) of CO_2. Currently, annual global emissions are around 40 $GtCO_2$.

This means net global emissions must drop drastically to stay within the carbon budget. Several countries have announced net-zero targets, but we also really need a sharp decline in total emissions.

Is net-zero equitable?

The developed world, having caused the problem of climate change in the first place, is expected to lead this transition and reach net-zero emissions well before 2050, allowing more time for developing countries to balance their development goals with climate action. These expectations aren't being met, however.

Developed countries are also expected to help finance climate action, but this hasn't materialised at the required scale either. Developing countries, especially those that are small islands, are bearing more than their fair share of the brunt of climate change.

So overall, neither climate change nor climate action is currently equitable. COP-29 is expected to build consensus on the level of financing required.

India's per-capita emissions are among the lowest in the world. However, according to the World Inequality Database, the per-capita emissions of the richest 10% are 20-times greater than that of the poorest 10% and in absolute terms almost half of the country's total. Climate change more severely affects the economically weaker sections.

India's size and diversity mean it's a country of countries, and some of them are more polluting than others vis-à-vis the climate. Importantly, India lacks the carrying capacity to support the developed world's lifestyle standards for its entire population. If it should, India will run into significant food shortage due to groundwater depletion by the 2040s, extreme heat stress in urban areas due to the ever-increasing vehicular pollution and AC use, irreversible biodiversity loss due to non-ideal land-use changes encroaching on habitats, etc.

India's lifestyle aspirations could easily become unsustainable in the long run, jeopardising our access to basic needs.

A new consumption corridor

In a scenario where consumption rises unchecked and India electrifies all end-use applications, the power demand could increase nine- to ten-fold by 2070. Meeting it entirely via renewable energy will require more than 5,500 GW of solar and 1,500 GW of wind, up from the current 70 GW and and 47 GW, respectively.

This target is achievable if India's only priority is to expand renewable energy generation capacity. But if India is to maintain food and nutritional security, increase forest cover, and preserve biodiversity as well, these energy targets will become very challenging. By modelling land-use change dynamics over time, the authors have found going beyond 3,500 GW solar and 900 GW wind will demand considerable land trade-offs.

In sum, India has a tough balancing act to pull off: availing good quality of life to a large share of its population (which has significant material and energy implications) while working towards its climate adaptation and mitigation goals

In sum, India has a tough balancing act to pull off: availing good quality of life to a large share of its population (which has significant material and energy implications) while working towards its climate adaptation and mitigation goals.

To this end, it is important to recognise the pitfalls of economic models. For example, the environmental Kuznets curve hypothesises that beyond a threshold, economic growth can be decoupled from carbon emissions. In reality, even the richest countries haven't achieved this decoupling (other than by shifting their emissions to poorer countries). This is why it is in our best interest to not aspire to achieve the lifestyle standards of the west.

Instead, we need to envisage a long-term strategy incorporating 'sufficiency consumption corridors', with a floor well suited to meeting our developmental goals and a ceiling of excess that will help avoid unsustainable growth. Equally, if not more, important are demand-side measures to help maintain this corridor of consumption that will keep us on a sustainable pathway.

Our power consumption here could increase six- or sevenfold by 2070.

Demand and supply measures

Some of these demand-side measures include the use of better construction materials and passive design elements to provide thermal comfort that doesn't require air-conditioning, energy-efficient appliances, public and/or non-motorised transport within urban areas and railways for intercity travel, local products to reduce the demand for long-haul freight, mindful dietary choices, and alternative fuels in industries in addition to some electrification.

On the supply side as well, India needs to further decentralise energy production (including by the use of rooftop solar cells and of solar pumps for agriculture). Finally, it should continue to expand its nuclear power generation capacity to diversify its energy mix and to complement a grid becoming more dependent on intermittent energy sources. Nuclear power could also offer a precious low-carbon baseload energy and help the government effectively phase out the national economy's dependence on fossil fuels.

As the world trundles towards its net-zero and other climate-related targets, the leeway for governments to miss some of them or postpone their achievement also shrinks. Of course some things are out of our control – for example who becomes the U.S. President – but the things that we can we must, before we cannot.

(Ramya Natarajan and Kaveri Ashok work on climate change mitigation at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank.)

Researchers say tea cultivation could decrease as rising temperatures and drought batter tea plants and the land they grow on. BRIAN PATRICK TAGALOG

Tea is a way of life in Azerbaijan, and at COP-29

Associated Press

Agreements might not yet be brewing amongst negotiators at the United Nations climate talks, but tea certainly is.

Attendees who roam for miles within the COP-29 venue have ample options to take a pit stop for sugar and caffeine: shops stack high mountains of pastries with sugary, nutty pakhlava and cardamom-tinged, crescent-shaped shekerbura. At Azerbaijan's country pavilion, women in Baku's traditional dress pour the warm drink for visitors.

All of it, like daily life in the city outside, revolves around tea – which climate change threatens around the globe. As world leaders descend on the capital city of Baku for climate talks,

Scientists are studying ways to improve tea varieties and preparing for a future where some tea production moves north, along with many other crops hard hit by climate change

researchers who study tea report that in some regions around the world, tea cultivation could decrease by over half as rising temperatures, drought, heavy precipitation, and erosion batter tea plants and the land they grow on. Scientists are studying ways to improve tea varieties and preparing for a future where some tea production moves north, along with many other crops hard hit by climate change.

"Tea is a source of livelihood for our region; especially for the local people, for tea producers," said Keziban Yazici, a professor who has been studying the effects of climate change on tea, speaking in Turkish. "We need to take the necessary precautions against climate change to make this product sustainable."

Their team has been working on developing drought-resistant tea varieties and protecting the tea gene pool at Recep Tayyip Erdogan University in Rize, Turkey, one of the major tea-producing areas in the Caucasus region. Yazici traveled to Azerbaijan this spring to initiate further cooperation between the countries – which have many similarities in tea culture and growing – on preparing tea crops for the threat of climate change.

The perilous future of this beloved drink serves as a reminder that if the world fails to meet the global warming goals set in the Paris Agreement, many places around the world stand to grieve not just lives and livelihoods, but also treasured elements of cultural heritage.

"Culture and the future has to be aligned," said Fatima Fataliyeva, the senior sustainability manager for the COP-29 operation company, who was responsible for the design of the Azerbaijan pavilion at the venue. "My mom taught me this, so I will (teach) my kids, so it doesn't disappear."

Ms. Fataliyeva described the importance for her team of including Azerbaijani culture at the venue. The first thing that comes to your attention, she said, is tea.

From an early age, she learned that drinking tea symbolised hospitality and respect. Tea is for drinking with family and friends, central in gossiping and matchmaking, on festivals and in times of mourning. People drink it from pear-shaped glasses called armudu that keep the bottom of the tea warm while cooling the top, sometimes served with a wedge of orange or lemon and a lump of boiled sugar.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

A trek through the landscapes of the Solar System

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The moon has many basaltic plains that, when seen from the earth, appear as dark patches. The largest of these is X. It's so large that all the other plains of this kind are called mare, the Latin word for 'seas', whereas the first part of its name means 'ocean'. Name X.

QUESTION 2

For a long time Mt. Olympus Mons on Mars had the distinction of being the Solar System's tallest mountain. But today, we know that a mountain called Rheasilvia on the asteroid Y is almost as tall. Name Y. Hint: It isn't Ceres.

QUESTION 3

Measured from base to peak overland, the tallest mountain on the earth is not Mt. Everest — it's a formation called _____ in Alaska. Fill in the blank with its name, which was previously McKinley.

QUESTION 4

The Solar System's largest multi-ring impact crater is located on Jupiter's moon Callisto. It was named Z. While Jupiter is a Roman name and Callisto is Greek, Z is from Norse mythology, and refers to the hall to which warriors who fell in battle go. Name Z.

QUESTION 5

As a planetary body, this moon is the most dense among the Solar System's moons and also contains the least amount of water. The powerful gravitational pull of its host planet is also enough to melt this moon's core, producing heat that manifests in its famous volcanoes. Name this moon.

Name this moon of Saturn that is the sole regular moon in the Solar System that isn't tidally locked to its planet. It's named for a titan in Greek myth. NASA

Answers to November 14 quiz:

1. Locke's theory about the state of a child's mind at birth – **Ans: Tabula rasa**
2. Stage at which childhood ends in biology – **Ans: Puberty**
3. British author whose books described plight of children on the streets – **Ans: Charles Dickens**
4. Social worker who pitched November 14 as Children's Day – **Ans: V.M. Kulkarni**
5. U.N. member that has signed but not ratified the child rights Convention – **Ans: USA**

Visual: 'The Age of Innocence'

First contact:
K.N. Viswanathan | Rahul Nair | Jose Joji | Shivani Goyal | Harsh Kumar

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Cab driver arrested in hit-and-run case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police on Monday arrested a 24-year-old cab driver who ran over a biker after he crashed into the cab in a freak accident on Thigalarapalya Main Road early on November 13.

The biker who died in the accident was identified as Shashi Kumar, a fabricator by profession.

According to the police, he was returning home at around 2 a.m. It was raining and he was driving rashly without a helmet.

While negotiating a right turn, he collided with the cab and fell down near the cab's front wheel. The cab driver tried to reverse, but in the melee ran over Shashi Kumar killing him on the spot. He did not stop the vehicle and fled the scene, said the police.

The Kamakshipalya police gathered footage from nearby CCTV cameras and got a lead on the vehicle involved.

However, tracking down the vehicle was difficult as it was dark and the footage was not clear enough to identify the numberplate, a senior police officer part of the investigation said.

However, footage from the area also showed the accused driver had gotten down from another cab a short distance away and took the driver's seat in the cab involved in the accident.

The footage of this incident was clear and the number of the car visible. The police tracked down the driver of that cab and through him identified the person involved in the accident as Khaja Moiddin, 24, a resident of Channarayapatna, Hassan district.

A probe revealed that Moiddin had come to pick up his employer from Channapattana for some work in the city and was returning home, when the incident occurred.

The police have also arrested the owner of the car charging the duo with causing death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving.

FIR registered after four mobile phones are recovered from Central Prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agrahara Central Prison officials recently recovered four mobile phones from the barracks during a surprise inspection.

While one mobile phone with a SIM card was recovered from a washroom, three other phones were recovered from Barrack No. 9. Following the recovery, Imamsab Myageri, Assistant Superintendent of the prison, filed a complaint with the Parappana Agrahara police who have registered two separate FIRs, charging 'unknown persons' under various sections of the Karnataka Prisons Act and under Section 323 (Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 19, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Did inflation play a role in Trump win? **newsth.live/inflationandtrumpwin**
- With 45 years to go, how sustainable is India's road to net-zero? **newsth.live/roadtonetzero**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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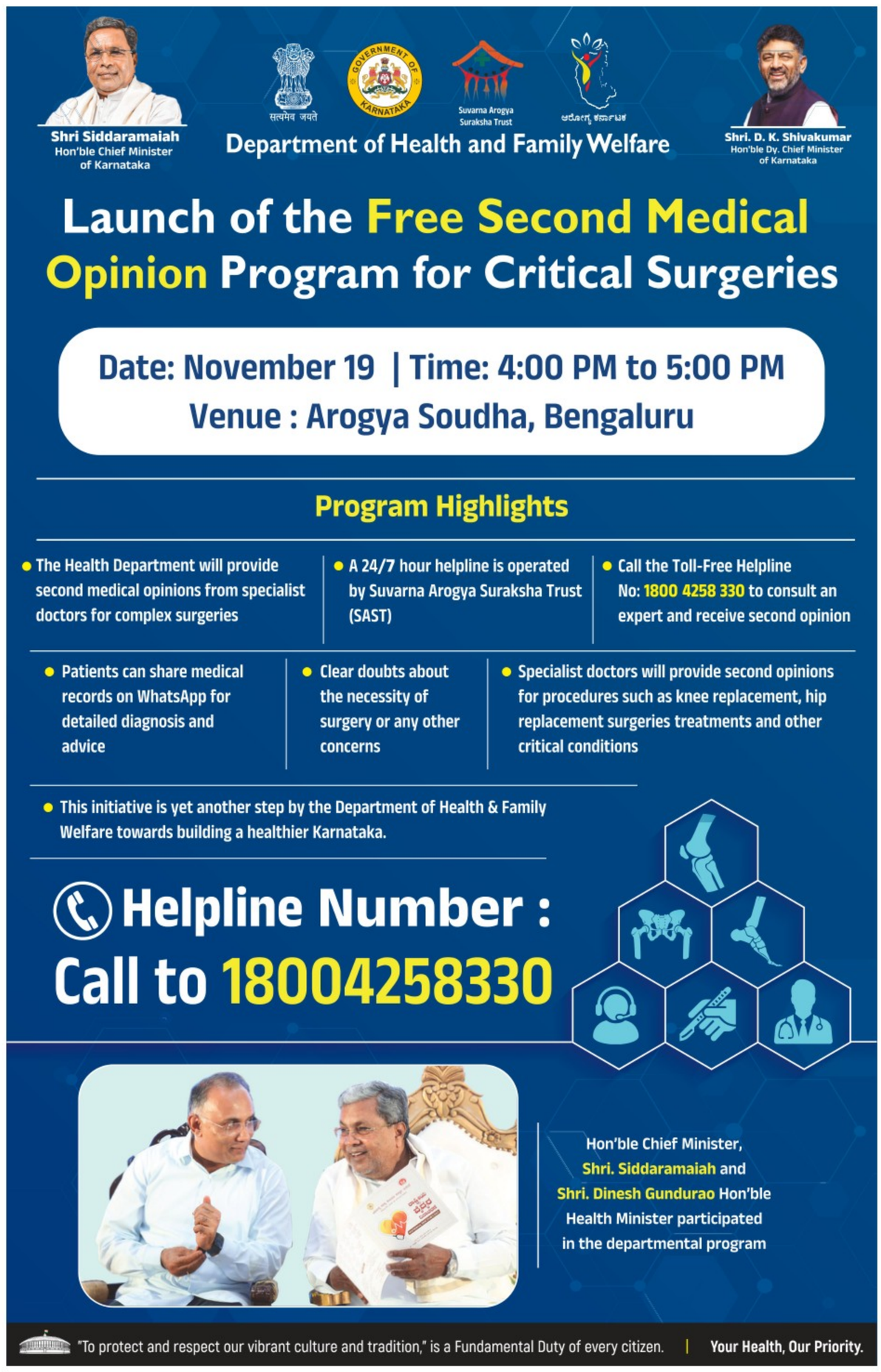
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ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka
Launch of the Free Second Medical Opinion Program for Critical Surgeries
Date: November 19 | Time: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Venue : Arogya Soudha, Bengaluru
Program Highlights
• The Health Department will provide second medical opinions from specialist doctors for complex surgeries
• A 24/7 hour helpline is operated by Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST)
• Call the Toll-Free Helpline No: 1800 4258 330 to consult an expert and receive second opinion
• Patients can share medical records on WhatsApp for detailed diagnosis and advice
• Clear doubts about the necessity of surgery or any other concerns
• Specialist doctors will provide second opinions for procedures such as knee replacement, hip replacement surgeries treatments and other critical conditions
• This initiative is yet another step by the Department of Health & Family Welfare towards building a healthier Karnataka.
Helpline Number : Call to 18004258330
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Siddaramaiah and Shri. Dinesh Gundurao Hon'ble Health Minister participated in the departmental program
"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. | Your Health, Our Priority.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of displaced people due to the Sudan war

11 million. Sudan's paramilitary RSF, on Monday, denied responsibility for violations and said they were committed to peace. Sudan has been mired in war between the army, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, led by his former deputy, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. AFP

Contribution of farm fires to Delhi's pollution

40 per cent. Toxic smog engulfed much of northern India on Monday and pollution readings in New Delhi hit their highest of this pre-winter season. The winter blanket of smoke and fog descends each year as cold air traps dust, emissions and smoke from illegal farm fires. REUTERS

Direct tax collection target set for the current fiscal

22.07 ₹ lakh crore. The government has set a target to collect ₹22.07 lakh crore from direct taxes during the current fiscal. This includes ₹10.20 lakh crore from corporate tax and ₹11.87 lakh crore from personal income tax, corporate tax and other taxes. PTI

Number of candidates in Maharashtra Assembly election

4,136 The election campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly polls ended on Monday. The number of candidates has increased by 28% this time compared to the 2019 State Assembly polls. Among these candidates, 2,086 are independents. PTI

Death toll due to landslide in the Philippines

7 Typhoon Man-yi left at least seven people dead in a landslide, destroyed scores of houses, and displaced large numbers of villagers before blowing away from the northern Philippines, worsening the crisis, officials said Monday. PTI

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Did inflation play a role in Trump win?

Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. election was driven by voter frustration over the economic challenges during Joe Biden's term; this outcome raises concerns about future shifts in economic policies, potentially diminishing labour union power and favouring corporate interests

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

Donald Trump has emerged an unlikely victor in the recently concluded U.S. election, with the Republicans delivering a comprehensive victory over the embattled Democrats. Not only have the Republicans captured the popular vote – the first time since George W. Bush in 2004 – but they also captured both houses of government, a resounding victory for the conservatives.

Mishandling of economy

There have been many competing explanations for this loss, such as the Democrats' support for Israel's war in Gaza, or the anti-immigrant sentiment stoked by the Republicans. A major factor that eroded support for the Democrats has been their handling of the economy. Joe Biden's term was marked by a cost-of-living crisis driven by high inflation rates experienced after the COVID-19 pandemic. In a survey conducted in May 2024 by the Pew Research Center, only 23% of Americans expressed a positive opinion of the state of the economy.

Some blame inflation on the mishandling of the economy by Democrats. The fiscal stimulus measures announced by Mr. Biden in the wake of the pandemic helped people deal with the dislocations caused by the lockdown and unemployment, but also, according to one strand of criticism, fuelled excess demand and inflation. Several others point to disruptions in supply chains caused due to worldwide lockdowns, as well as the monopolistic powers of firms leading to 'greedflation', or the increase in price to boost profits, rather than inflation being caused due to excess consumer demand. Regardless of what caused inflation, it no doubt played a role in delivering a significant Republican victory.

This is not the first time the Republicans have benefited from high inflation during a Democrat President's tenure. High inflation in the U.S. and the U.K. during the 1970s brought about decisive electoral victories for the governments of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. These elections brought about significant changes in the balance of power between capital and labour, taming inflation but also causing increasing inequality. When seen through this lens, the election of Mr. Trump threatens far-reaching changes in the political economy of the U.S.

Inflation of the 1970s

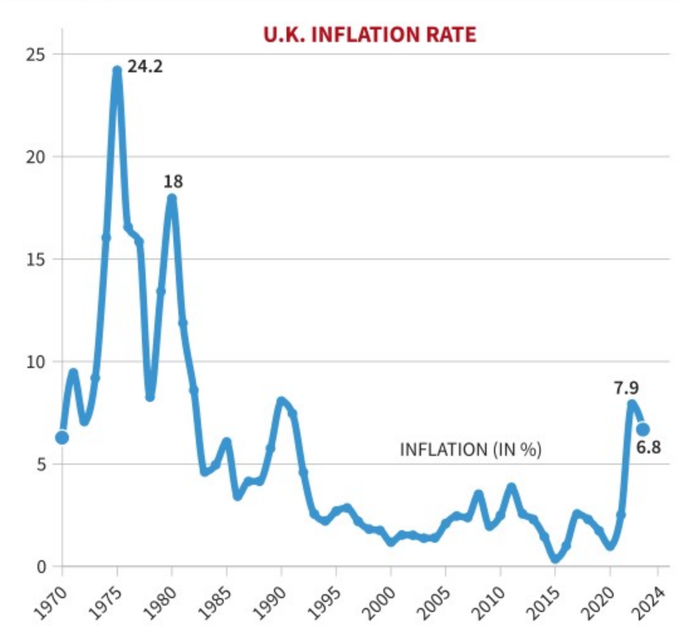
The figures outline inflation rates in the U.S. and the U.K., from the 1970s to the current period. The oil crises of the 1970s sparked huge inflation rates across the developed world, with these economies facing unprecedented levels of inflation. In the U.S., Mr. Reagan was elected in November 1980 and won a resounding victory, when the inflation rate was almost 13%, the highest rate ever experienced. When Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative government first took power in 1979, inflation was roughly 17%.

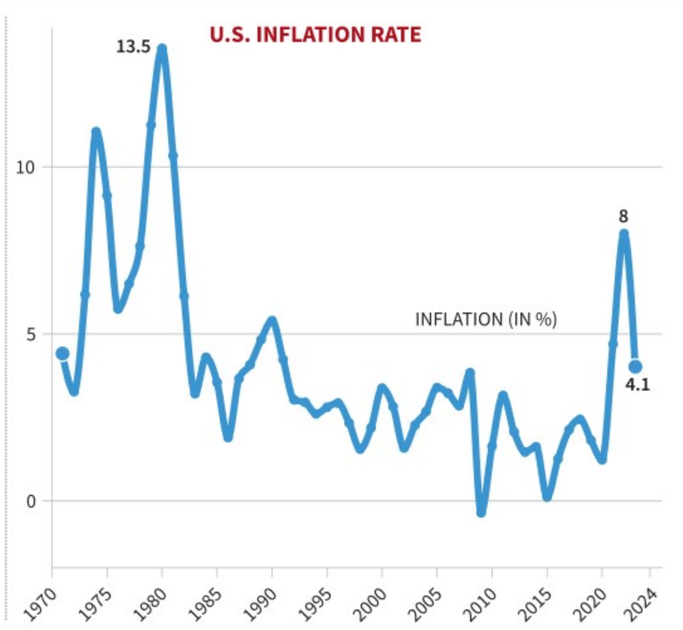
As shown in the graphs, these governments were largely successful in taming inflation, with inflation rates remaining relatively lower during the 1980s. This success was rewarded politically, with both leaders receiving massive mandates in the subsequent election. Many credit the reforms introduced by Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher for ensuring low inflation and high growth in the 1990s and 2000s.

The deciding factor

The charts below outline inflation rates in the U.S. and the U.K., from the 1970s to the current period. Inflation has historically had a significant influence in the election results of these countries, and continues to do so with Donald Trump securing a resounding victory in the recent U.S. Presidential polls

Power play: One cannot say with certainty what the direction of policy will be in the new Trump term, but there are certain warning signals. AP





However, the policies introduced by them had significant effects. Labour unions, strong until then, were weakened by the free-market economic policies introduced by both governments on either side of the Atlantic, with policy taking a decisive anti-union turn. The coal mines in the north of the U.K. were shut in the early 1980s, leading to a protracted strike by labour unions, a strike broken by Mrs. Thatcher. This led to hardships for families that normally relied on incomes from mining in the north of England and resentment for Mrs. Thatcher that saw public outpourings of relief on her death many years later.

The shift of power away from unions allows for lower inflation since labour can no longer press for higher wage claims. A reduction in union power might lead to faster growth with slower rates of inflation as companies face no obstacles in their expansion plans, but it shifts the balance of economic power away from workers and leads to high inequality.

The attenuation of union power led to increasing levels of inequality not seen since the years before World War 1, as shown in the works of Thomas Piketty. Moreover, while the 1990s saw a decade of high growth with low inflation – with the gains accruing largely to the top 1% – the deregulation of financial markets led to the proliferation of exotic financial products that eventually led to the Great Recession of 2008. The legacy of policy in the Reagan and Thatcher years lies heavy over their respective economies.

Current scenario

There are no doubt differences between the current scenario and that of the 1970s. For one, the inflation had already been tamed by the middle of Mr. Biden's term, with inflation rates dropping from their post-COVID highs. However, high inflation significantly reduced real wages and purchasing power, leading to a Trump victory even though inflation had reduced. One cannot say with certainty what the direction of policy will be in the new Trump term, but there are certain warning signals. Elon Musk has been appointed to look after improving government efficiency, a euphemism for the cost-cutting of federal agencies. With a prominent billionaire so strongly at the helm of economic policy making, there would very well be a strong pushback against the slow moves towards unionisation already being witnessed in companies such as Amazon and Starbucks. Unionised Boeing workers have already won a significant victory, but this victory may not be widespread in the years to come.

The electorate has given Mr. Trump a significant mandate, and early signs indicate the clear hold of loyalists on the levers of policymaking. The lessons of history offer us useful signposts to the future, and the current election resembles that of the 1970s. It is not far-fetched to expect the slowly rising power of unions to be beaten back by a government headed by a billionaire, by a party that has shown its opposition to unionisation and the power of labour.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor in the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P. Jindal Global University

THE GIST

- Donald Trump won the U.S. election, with Republicans achieving a comprehensive victory over the Democrats.
- High inflation during Joe Biden's presidency significantly reduced real wages and purchasing power, fuelling voter dissatisfaction despite inflation easing before the election.
- The situation mirrors past economic crises, such as in the 1970s, where inflation contributed to conservative electoral victories.
- There are fears that Trump's administration, with Elon Musk playing a key policy role, could weaken unions and roll back recent labour gains.

Mangaluru drowning: Resort owner and manager arrested

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru city police have arrested the owner and the manager of Vazco Beach Resort, near Ullal, on the charge of negligence resulting in the drowning of three engineering students in the swimming pool of the resort on Sunday.

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal informed that Manohar V. Puthran, the owner, and Bharath, the manager, have been booked under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

After autopsy, the bodies of the students were handed over to the respective family members on Sunday, he said.

N. Keerthana, 21, M.D. Nishitha, 21, and S. Parvathi, 20, all from Mysuru, checked in at the resort at Peribail, Battapady Cross Road in Someshwara village of Ullal, on Saturday.

CCTV cameras showed the three students entering the water the next morning. One girl panics following breathlessness and tries to get hold of a lifebuoy and another girl tries to save her friend. The third girl tries to save her two friends and all three drowned in the pool.

The parents of the victims arrived in Mangaluru on Sunday night and visited the resort.

The parents told the police that their children sent regular updates to them following their arrival at the resort. The parents found that the pool did not have warning boards about the level of water at the shallow and deep ends. The level of water was 4 ft. at the shallow end and 5.4 ft. at the deep end.

The parents had a look at the CCTV camera footage.

In their complaint to the police, they alleged that the owner and the manager were negligent in not posting lifeguards at the swimming pool.

They also pointed to the absence of caution boards. They accused the two of negligence, leading to the death of their children.

'Kaalinga' will be the scientific name for 'Kaalinga Sarpa' found in Western Ghats

Till recently, the snake whose habitat spreads across South and South-east Asia was believed to belong to one species; but a research led by herpetologist, Gowri Shankar, revealed four species

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Karnataka's own king cobra found in the Western Ghats and known as 'Kaalinga Sarpa' in the vernacular parlance will get its name 'Kaalinga' etched in the scientific world.

A species that has inspired film and popular references in literature, the Western Ghat's species will be officially named Ophiophagus Kaalinga.

Till recently, the king cobra whose habitat spreads across the South and South-east Asia was believed to belong to one species till a nearly decade-long research led by noted herpetologist, P. Gowri Shankar, brought to the fore four species of king cobra of which Kaalinga is one. It was in 1836 that a broad spectrum of king cobra species was named as *Ophiophagus hannah* by Danish naturalist, Theodore Edward Cantor.

Extensive sampling

After an extensive sampling across countries and DNA mapping among others, the king cobra species have been separated to be having four lineages – Western Ghats lineage, Indo-Chinese lineage, Indo-Malaysian lineage, and the lineage of Luzon Island in the Philippines Archipelago.

On November 22, the Western Ghats lineage 'Kaalinga' and Luzon Island lineage 'Salvatana' will be formally named in Bengaluru for these snakes that has often brought emotions ranging from reverence to fear.

"We found that the king cobra species in the Western Ghats was different from the others and hence the name. The rest of the king cobras found in India display characters of *Ophiophagus hannah*," said Dr. Gowri Shankar, whose article naming king cobra as 'Kaalinga' appeared in the European Journal of Taxonomy in September this year.

"Since the time Cantor described king cobra, no one had taken up genetic work and for nearly 186 years it had remained as a single species. Genetic work on king cobra was taken up, more than 200 samples were used, and specimens from across the region were collected for the work," Dr. Gowri Shankar said, speaking of his long research.

New anti-venom

It was around 2005 when Dr. Gowri Shankar, co-founder of Kalinga Foundation at Agumbe, the home for king cobras, was bitten by the serpent that led him to further research on the species.

"I was given polyvalent, usually administered for bites of the common four Indian venomous snakes. My body also rejected the anti-venom from Thailand for king cobra that was administered later. I was lucky to survive the bite."

"There is no specific anti-venom for king cobra bites in India. Discovery of four species will help in developing a king cobra specific anti-venom," he told *The Hindu*.

According to him, king cobra venom is not most potent among venomous snake. "But, the amount of venom that they can deliver in a single bite is enough to kill 10 people or even an elephant." The neurotoxin venom of king cobra affects the respiratory centres, causing respiratory arrest and cardiac failure.

The king cobras are the only snakes in the world to build nests that are 4 ft x 3 ft and the female king cobras are found ferociously guarding them. Each clutch will vary from 23 to 43 eggs and the female leave the nest before the hatchlings emerge.

Dr. Gowri Shankar, who initiated the radio telemetry study on king cobras, has rescued over 500 king cobras from distress situations and monitored over 50 nests, and on November 22 these creatures will have an official name too.

King cobra — A fact file

- King cobras are found in thick rain forests in India, Southern China, and South-east Asia
- Besides the Western Ghats, they are found in Eastern Ghats, sub-Himalayas, and the North-east
- King cobra is the longest venomous snake on the planet, reaching up to 18 ft
- They mainly feed on other snakes — both venomous and non-venomous
- They can rise up to one-third of their body's length to look into the eyes of a full-grown adult

P. Gowri Shankar with a king cobra — Photo: Special Arrangement

> No one had taken up genetic work and for nearly 186 years it had remained as a single species. When the work on king cobra was taken up, over 200 samples were used, and specimens from across the region were collected for the work.
>
> **P. GOWRI SHANKAR,** Herpetologist

Institute sees rise in diabetic foot conditions in patients

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Diabetic foot conditions among patients visiting the State-run Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research (KIER) are on the rise, especially in males aged between 35 and 55.

From 13,091 patients in 2022, including those who came for a review, the number shot up to 13,958 in 2023. The institute, which has been running a diabetic foot registry since 2016, has seen 11,258 patients this year till October, according to data from the institute.

Overall, from 2022 till October 2024, 17,804 patients have undergone minor and major procedures at the institute. Doctors said the number of amputations are also on the rise. From 55 minor (one to three toes) amputations and 12 major (below or above knee) amputations in 2023, the number shot up to 65 major and 17 minor amputations this year so far.

Associate Professor (Podiatry) Belehalli Pavan, who heads the Department of Podiatry at the institute, told *The Hindu* that the average amputation rate at the institute ranged between 8% and 10%. "Many patients, who get surgeries done outside after the diagnosis and evaluation, are out of our records," he said.

Attributing the rise in diabetic foot conditions to a lack of awareness, Dr. Pavan said foot problems are common in people with diabetes. They can happen over time when high blood sugar damages the nerves and blood vessels in the feet. The nerve damage, called diabetic neuropathy, can cause numbness, tingling, pain, or a loss of feeling in the feet.

Diabetic foot conditions happen over time when high blood sugar damages the nerves and blood vessels in the feet.

The nerve damage can also lower the patient's ability to feel pain, heat, or cold. Nerve damage, along with poor blood flow – another diabetes complication – puts the patient at risk for developing a foot ulcer that could get infected and not heal well. If the infection does not get better, the toe, foot, or part of the leg may need to be amputated to prevent the infection from spreading.

"This year, 3,490 patients screened at our institute have been detected with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN), 511 with peripheral arterial disease (PAD), 1,405 with diabetic foot ulcer (DFU), and 228 with DFU and PAD," the doctor said.

Podiatric surgeon Sanjay Sharma, who is also the secretary of the Indian Podiatry Association's Karnataka unit, said in the absence of a registry of diabetic foot conditions in the country, extrapolated numbers from several small studies across several hospitals in India show that about 50% of people with diabetes have a diabetic foot condition.

16-year-old boy falls to death from seventh floor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old boy fell to his death from the seventh floor of the Mantri Splendour apartment at Geddalahalli in Hennur in the early hours of Monday. The incident was said to have taken place between 1.30 a.m. and 5.00 a.m. The family of the victim lived on the fourth floor of the apartment building. His father was a techie and his mother, a homemaker, and he was the only child, a police officer said.

Argument

The boy had an argument with his parents on Sunday, and he left home only to return late in the night.

His parents were at home at the time of the incident, the officer said.

A probe revealed that the boy was depressed as he did not get selected for the college cricket team.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

NOTICE

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE VI ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE: AT VIJAYAWADA
O.S. NO.97/2021

Between
M/s. Prakash Arts Pvt Ltd., Vijayawada
Rep. by its Marketing Executive and authorized signatory
J V R Sastry, Vijayawada ... Plaintiff

AND

M/s. Cross Roads
Rep. by its Proprietor
R. Lokesh Kumar and another ... Defendants

To

1st Respondent: M/s. Cross Roads, rep.by its proprietor, R.Lokesh Kumar situate at #3737, 10th Cross, 13th Main, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038.

2nd Respondent: R.Lokesh Kumar, Father's name not known to the Plaintiff, hindu proprietor, M/s. Cross Roads, situate at #3737, 10th Cross, 13th Main, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038.

The above named Plaintiff filed the above Suit against the Defendants for the suit amount of Rs.20,96,877/- and for other reliefs and the said Suit was posted to 02-12-2024 for your appearance. You have to attend at 10.30 AM on that day before the above said Hon'ble Court in person or through advocate, failing which the above petition will be decided setting you exparte.

(By Order of the Court)

CH. AJAY KUMAR, Advocate
Jadagamvari Street, Suryaraopet, Vijayawada-2. Ph:2432345, 9848128444

Vijayawada
Dt.18-11-2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: HE-TRD-2024-25-0T-28
Dated: 13.11.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification for running DSDC trains over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 1,33,39,480/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05.12.2024

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution/Hubballi

PUB/578/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum to Publication of Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/30/2024 Dated: 07-11-2024 for Sl. No. 1

	Item of Work	Approx. Value
Existing	Londa-Miraj Section construction of RUB of size 1x5.5x5.5m Segmental RCC Twin Boxes in lieu of LC No.380 at Km. 606/800-607/000 between Desur & Belgavi stations by box pushing method. (Composite Work) **(Tender Ref. No. : LDMRJ-RUB-LC380)**	Rs. 22,13,25,334/-
Modified	Hubballi Division- Londa-Miraj section- Construction of RUB as 2x5.50mx5.50m RCC box in lieu of LC No.380 at Rly.Km:606/800-607/000 between Desur & Belagavi stations by box pushing method (Composite Work). **(Tender Ref. No. : LDMRJ-RUB-LC380)**	

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 28-11-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/569/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/Bengaluru Cantonment**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ

A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

GOLD MEDAL IN WKC WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Hebbal student Apshara BS Jubi, studying in 9th standard, won a gold medal at the WKC World Cup Championship for children held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Selected by the All India Karate Do and Kobudo Promotion Foundation, Apshara competed in the 14-15 age category against participants from countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Korea. She has been practising karate since 1st standard under the guidance of Hanshi Capt. S.C. Durai, with a track record of winning gold in various state, district, and national competitions. Apshara aspires to represent India in the Olympics and achieve gold.

INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS

St John's High School, Cleveland Rd, Frazer Town, celebrated impressive achievements at the CISCE National Games. Tanish of Std 9, coached by Anil Kumar, won a silver medal in the 57-60 kg boxing category in Ranchi. Brightson of Std 12 secured a gold medal in the 4x100m relay in Hyderabad, while Keren Sophia of Std 12 won a bronze in the 4x400m relay. These outstanding performances reflect the dedication and talent of the students, bringing pride to the school.

KANNADA RAJYOTSAVA CELEBRATED

Vishwa Venkateshwara International School celebrated the 69th Kannada Rajyotsava with grandeur, adorning the campus in yellow and red to represent the Karnataka flag. Chief Guest Mr. Katta Balaji, Principal Mrs. Rajeswari Sridhar, and senior faculty were welcomed with the traditional "Veeragase" folk dance. The event featured flag hoisting, lamp lighting, and cultural performances by students, including folk dances, skits, and group songs showcasing Karnataka's rich heritage. The Kannada Department teachers also performed "Geegi Pada," celebrating the state's folk traditions, inspiring pride in Karnataka's culture.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.RFS2/37225/2024, Dated: 18.11.2024

Additional Director of Agriculture (Research), Chennai invites eTender in two cover system from the reputed entities for the following item

S. No.	Name of the item	Approximate Value for the item. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit to be paid for the item. (In Rs.)
1.	Organic Input - Liquid organic Fertilizer (Biostimulant)	Rs.21,00,00,000/-	Rs.21,00,000/-

eTenders (Technical Bid & Price Bid) should be submitted through online mode for the item mentioned in the tender document along with specified E.M.D paid via eTender platform.

Tender document can be downloaded upto **28.11.2024, 11.00 A.M.** in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost. Last Date for submission of filled tender document is **28.11.2024, 12.00 Noon** via e-tender platform and tender opening will be on **29.11.2024, 12.00 P.M.** in online mode.

For Further particulars Contact: Agricultural Officer (RFS), O/o Director of Agriculture, Chepauk, Chennai - 600005. Phone: 8144280255, email ID: **coa.rfs2022@gmail.com**.

Sd/- R.Ashok
Additional Director of Agriculture (Res)

DIPR/4992/Tender/2024

Odisha Tourism
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road,
Bhubaneswar-751014
Fax No. +91 674 2430887
E-mail: info@odishatourism.gov.in

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ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ଭବନ, ଲୁଇସ ରୋଡ୍,
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧୦୧୪

Government of Odisha
Tourism Department

No. 8625 /TSM, Bhubaneswar, Dated : 18.11.24
TCT-TSP-FEST-0011-2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF OPERATOR(S) FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (O&M) OF RESTAURANT CUM BEACH SHACK AT RAMCHANDI BEACH AREA ON OPERATIONAL CONTRACT BASIS

Department of Tourism (DoT) invites proposals from prospective applicant(s) for 'Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Operator(s) for Operation and Management (O&M) of Restaurant cum Beach Shack at Ramchandi Beach Area on Operational Contract Basis' in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

The Proposals should be submitted by interested applicant(s) to the Director Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014 on or before **04.12.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs**. Detailed terms of the RFP may be downloaded from our website: **https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en/dot/quickLinks/tender.html**.

Spl. Secretary to Govt.

R-04 OIPR-37001/11/0006/2425

CAPITAL REGION URBAN TRANSPORT
Govt of Odisha
Plot No 548/1452, Kalarahanga, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751031, Odisha
Phone No. 0674-3501580, E-Mail Id :- crutbbsr@gmail.com

No. 3234 *Date: 14.11.2024*

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) - BID IDENTIFICATION No.3234/G.M (Engg.)/CRUT/2024-25

General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Managing Director, CRUT invites **Percentage Rate** bids in **DOUBLE COVER SYSTEM** for the construction of works as detailed in the table from the class of eligible contractors as mentioned in column-5 (five) registered with the State Governments and Contractors of equivalent Grades / Class Registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil Works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under state government has to register under the State Government of Odisha in appropriate class of eligibility before signing of the agreement. The bidders may submit bids for the following work through `e'-Tendering only.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Value of work (₹ in Amount) Excluding GST	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Bid Security	Cost of document (in ₹)	Last date of online receipt of bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of 153 Nos. of Bus Pole at Cuttack, Odisha.	₹ 78,85,620.00	03 (Three) Calendar Months	'B' Class	1% of value of work	₹ 10,000.00 + 18%	09/12/2024 up to 5.30 P.M.
2.	Construction of Service Pit & Washing Bay at Haladipadar, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha.	₹ 69,47,179.00	03 (Three) Calendar Months	'B' Class	1% of value of work	₹ 10,000.00 + 18%	09/12/2024 up to 5.30 P.M.
3.	Upgradation of Bus Depot including additional works at Naraj, Cuttack, Odisha.	₹ 1,75,64,680.00	03 (Three) Calendar Months	'B'& 'A' Class	1% of value of work	₹ 10,000.00 + 18%	09/12/2024 up to 5.30 P.M.

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website **http://tendersodisha.gov.in** from **22/11/2024 to 5.30 P.M. of 09/12/2024.**
2. All Corrigendum and Addendum will be published in the Website only.
3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

C-1024: **GM, Engineering on behalf of Managing Director, Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)**

OIPR-13183/11/0010/2425

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JOHN Seena, S/o P C Munirathnam, aged about 48 years, Residing at No.469, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Near Om Shakthi Temple, Babusapalya, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to John Appaji, vide affidavit dated: 30.10.2024 before Notary N.Thulasi, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Hon'ble Munsiff Court IInd A, Kozhikode
OS 781/2022

C P Sankaran - *Plaintiff*

1) **MAJ Health Care Services LLP** 41/3, Neelam Ahamed, Hezoragetta Road, Vinayak Nagar, Chickabenawara, Bangalore-560090.
2) **Jaison Vargheese**, No. 54 – Vayuraja 1st Main 6th cross, Bangalore - 560013, Jalahally Village - *Defendants*

Notice is hereby issued to the above named defendants through publication as per the order of the court that the above case stands posted to 09/12/2024 for the appearance of the defendants in court.

(Sd/-) **P Muhammad Haneef,**
Advocate for plaintiff,
Kozhikode-673004.
6/9/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL IRINJALAKUDA
OP (MV) 879/2020 IA NO 4/2022

United India Insurance Co. Ltd, Chalakudy
Petitioner/3rd Respondent

Juned Pasha K, S/o. H. Khadar Pasha, No. 851, 1st Stage, 2nd Block, HBR Layout, BBMP, Ward No.24, Bangalore-560024.
1st Respondent

To,
The Respondent aforesaid,
Where the above petitioner/R3 has filed the said petition IA NO.4/2022 for producing Driving License against you and the petition is posted for hearing to the 26th day of November 2024 at 11.00AM, before this Tribunal, you are hereby ordered to appear either in person or through pleader, failing to which the said petition will be heard and decided ex-parte.

Dated this the 16th November 2024
Adv. J. Zeenathunissa
Council for the Petitioner/R3

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

BUILDING BLOCKS

GETTY IMAGES

How can design help a building be more climate-resilient?

High-performance buildings are at the forefront of sustainable construction, focusing on energy efficiency, resource conservation, and climate resilience through integrative design and the use of sustainable materials; they employ passive and active strategies to minimise environmental impact

Sandhya Patil

High-performance buildings (HPBs) are at the forefront of sustainable construction, tackling urgent needs like energy efficiency, climate resilience and resource conservation. As climate change intensifies, resources become scarcer, and urbanisation increases, HPBs – built to consume less energy, conserve resources, and withstand unpredictable weather – are an important part of achieving and keeping sustainable living.

Building an HPB requires key practices such as integrative design, lifecycle-based materials, efficient energy and water management, performance monitoring, and climate-resilient features.

What is integrative design?

At the core of HPBs is an integrative design approach that encourages architects, engineers, sustainability consultants, and building owners to work together and set measurable performance goals. These goals might aim for, say, 90% daylighting in occupied spaces or cooling in 700 sq. ft. per tonne of air-conditioning in commercial buildings. This approach ensures all building systems – air-conditioning, lighting, and building envelope components like walls, roofs, and windows – work together smoothly.

Digital modelling also plays a crucial role by creating a virtual representation of the project, allowing the team to predict performance outcomes, guide optimal system sizing, and test different strategies. With simulations, the team can adjust their strategies to meet energy-saving and thermal comfort goals before construction even begins. This predictive approach helps achieve high operational efficiency, improves resilience, and reduces long-term costs.

An example of an integrative design process in HPBs is the early use of passive design strategies, whereby designers make the most of natural sunlight and plan to use materials that retain heat (thermal mass). These strategies reduce heating and cooling demands, allowing designers to choose equipment of the right size.

What makes materials sustainable?

Materials need to be durable, energy-efficient, and prioritise occupant health. HPBs in particular prefer materials with low embodied carbon (emissions produced during manufacturing) and high recycled content. A life-cycle assessment is often used to evaluate a material's environmental impact and reveal the most sustainable options.

Additionally, HPBs use low-emission interior materials to improve indoor air quality by reducing the concentration of volatile organic compounds (harmful substances that can easily evaporate into the air). This creates a healthier environment for occupants and improves building performance.

For example, for the upcoming Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS) campus in Bengaluru**,** planners are using a life-cycle cost analysis to evaluate materials for comfort, durability, and the cost of envelope materials, including their impact on cooling equipment size and energy use over 50 years.

How can buildings use less energy?

Buildings account for about 40% of the total energy consumption of 580 million terajoules – equivalent to 13,865 million tonnes of oil over their lifespans, primarily for operational needs. Reducing this demand requires both passive and active strategies.

Passive design strategies tap into natural light, optimise building orientation, and take advantage of thermal mass to reduce the need for artificial lighting, heating, and cooling. These strategies must be tailored to the local climate and the building's specific needs, ensuring efficient operation without heavy reliance on mechanical systems.

On the active side, HPBs use energy-efficient HVAC systems, lighting, and appliances supported by smart technologies like automated lighting control and occupancy sensors that allow real-time energy monitoring and optimisation. The Infosys Hyderabad campus was India's first HPB to have a radiant cooling HVAC system that combines daylighting controls and task-lighting to minimise energy use.

A key goal for HPBs is net-zero energy, a.k.a. net-positive energy performance: they generate as much or more energy than they consume. Advances in affordable solar and wind technology make it easier to achieve this goal and reduce fossil fuel use.

How do HPBs save water?

Water scarcity is a critical issue nationwide, and HPBs address it by conserving and reusing water and fine-tuning quality. Efficient fixtures like low-flow faucets and dual-flush toilets reduce water use while rainwater harvesting apparatuses collect rainwater for non-potable uses like irrigation and sanitation.

On-site wastewater treatment systems also increase efficiency by recycling greywater for irrigation and treating blackwater with biological systems like constructed wetlands and sewage treatment plants. HPBs also incorporate green infrastructure elements such as permeable paving and bioswales to manage stormwater and cool urban heat-islands. Infosys campuses in India, for example, recycle 100% of their wastewater using a water management system and aerobic membrane bioreactor, earning them zero-discharge status.

Why is monitoring important?

Performance monitoring helps ensure an HPB meets design goals and operates efficiently. Using advanced monitoring systems, an HPB tracks energy consumption, water use, and indoor environmental quality in real-time. This data helps facility managers identify inefficiencies and implement corrective action. Continuous performance assessments can also validate the design and inform future projects.

For example, the second annexe of the IIHS Bengaluru campus uses a network of smart devices plus controls linked to an artificial intelligence to optimise thermal regulation.

How can HPBs handle climate risks?

HPBs are built to withstand unpredictable weather like extreme heat and flash floods – beginning with careful site selection and flood protection measures. Durable materials and diverse energy systems enhance structural resilience while passive survivability ensures the structures are habitable even during a power outage. Renewable energy systems also provide backup power, and rainwater harvesting and onsite treatment systems ensure water doesn't run low.

For example, the Infosys Crescent building in Bengaluru is designed to use far less energy than typical office buildings. It serves about 8,000 people and uses only 75 kWh of energy per sq.m each year, while most offices use between 150 and 200 kWh. With 90% of the space air-conditioned, the building's advanced cooling system requires 3 W per sq. ft versus the usual 4-5 W in regular offices. This shows how smart design can save energy and reduce costs without increasing building expenses.

Taken together, HPBs set the standard for buildings this century and benchmarks for sustainability and resilient built-environments. In addition to their benefits for the climate and lowering operational costs, they improve real estate value. As the practices underlying their construction and operation become more widespread, the goal should be to make all buildings HPBs.

Sandhya Patil is a sustainability expert with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and anchors technical assistance for ASSURE. The author does not have any financial interests vested with any company or organisation that would benefit from this article

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz related to the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Name this Congress legislator who holds the record of being the longest-serving active MLA in the Assembly.

QUESTION 2

A former personal assistant to Maratha strongman and NCP(SP) leader Sharad Pawar, this person has been elected seven consecutive times since 1990 in a western Maharashtra constituency and is the serving Minister of Cooperation in the current government. Name him and the constituency.

QUESTION 3

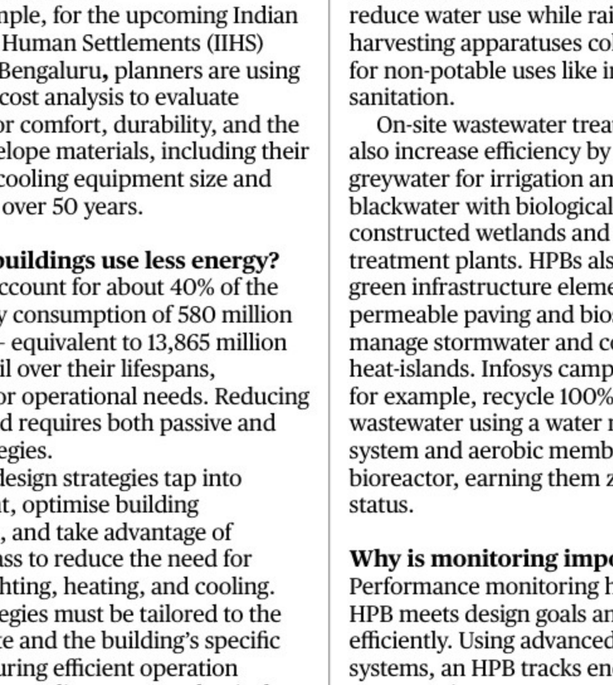
This leader from the Peasants and Workers Party held the record of being an MLA for the most number of years in the Maharashtra Assembly. Name him and the constituency he represented.

QUESTION 4

Which constituency has the highest number of registered electors in the State (more than 6,60,000 voters)?

QUESTION 5

What distinction does the constituency "Majalgaon" hold in this Assembly electron? Clue: Connect this with Modakurichi Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu in the year 1996.



Visual Question:

This 'Raj Mudra' or royal seal used during the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji is part of which party's flag?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. About which legend did Scorsese once remark "I have admired his films for many years and for me he is the filmic voice of India, speaking for the people of all classes on the country..." **Ans: Satyajit Ray**

2. Which Rolling Stones number has featured in Scorsese's '*Goodfellas* ', '*Casino*' and '*The Departed*'? **Ans: Gimme Shelter**

3. With 10 Oscar nominations for Best Director, he has won only one Best Director statuette. For which film? **Ans: *The Departed***

4. Scorsese's '*Taxi Driver*' is said to have formed part of the delusional fantasy of one John Hinckley. For what act did Hinckley make the global headlines in 1981? **Ans: Attempted assassination of U.S. President Ronald Reagan in 1981**

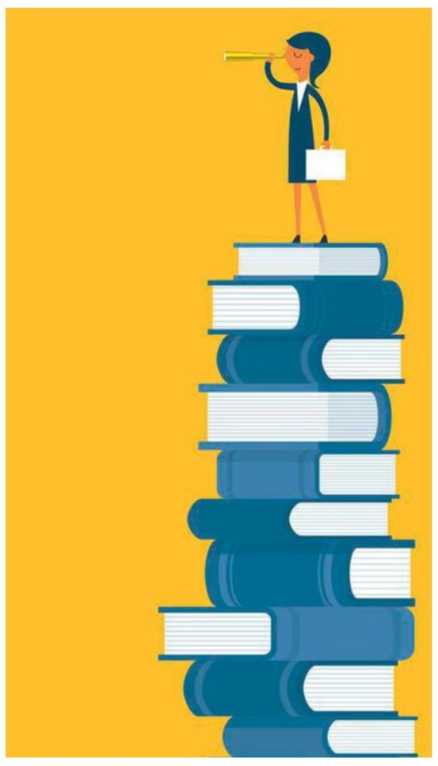
5. 'The Aviator' and 'Raging Bull' are biopics about whom? **Ans: Millionaire entrepreneur Howard Hughes and boxer Jake LaMotta**

6. Scorsese received the Grammy Award in direction for best long-form video for his work '*No Direction Home*'. Who was the subject of the work? **Ans: Bob Dylan**

7. Name the production company set up by Scorsese in 1989. **Ans: Sikelia Productions**

Visual: Name the film and its legendary director where Scorsese played Vincent Van Gogh. **Ans: Akira Kurosawa's '*Dreams*'**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Piyali Tuli | Tito Shiladitya



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"Have you seen Mohan recently?"

"Which Mohan? The short chap with glasses or the..."

"I don't think it's a good idea to call him short. He may not like it."

"Look, if a person is short, one has to say so. One can't lie about his height."

"One needn't lie about it. But one needn't say that he is 'short' directly. Instead, you could say that he is 'vertically challenged'."

"Vertically challenged?"

"That's right. Sounds more diplomatic than calling someone 'short', don't you think?"

"Well, yes, but ..."

"And if a person happens to wear glasses, then he/she is 'visually challenged'. In fact, these expressions, 'vertically challenged' and 'visually challenged' are becoming popular in America."

"That may be, but I still prefer to call someone like Mohan, 'short'."

"You do so at your own risk. Remember, Mohan may be short, but he's built like a boxer. And he can very easily beat you up."

"In fact, he beat up Raju the other day."

"The past tense of 'b...e...a...t' is not pronounced like the word 'bet'. The 'ea' in 'beat' sounds like the 'ea' in words like 'meat', 'heat' and 'seat'."

"O.K., so it's 'beet'. Mohan may be built like a boxer, but he won't be able to beat me up."

"Are you sure?"

"Positive. Besides, 'vertically challenged' seems too long a word for a short chap like Mohan. Ha! Ha! While we are on the subject of boxing, can you tell me why December 26 is called 'Boxing Day'?"

"That was the day when all the boxes were opened. You see ..."

"You mean the boxes containing presents?"

"No, not the boxes containing presents, but boxes containing coins."

"What coins"

"You see, in the old days, there used to be special boxes inside churches. And throughout the year people used to put coins into them."

"So these boxes were something like the 'hundi' we have in our temples."

"I suppose you could say that. Any way, as I was saying, people used to put coins into these boxes throughout the year. On the 26th of December the boxes were opened and all the coins distributed among the poor."

"So 'Boxing Day' has nothing to do with the sport 'boxing'?"

"I'm afraid not."

Published in The Hindu on February 01, 1994

Word of the day

Indolence:
inactivity resulting from a dislike of work

Synonyms: laziness, idleness, dull

Usage: *His indolence kept him from finishing his homework.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/indolencepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪndələns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

SLOW DOWN!

FOLLOW THE SPEED LIMIT FOR SAFETY

SRI SIDDARAMAIAH
CHIEF MINISTER
GOVT. OF KARNATAKA

SRI D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
GOVT. OF KARNATAKA

Launch of mass media campaign

By Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzrai

Shri Ramalinga Reddy

to create awareness among the public about the dangers of speeding

Date: 19-11-2024, Time: 11 am
Venue: KSRTC Head Office, Shanti Nagar, Bengaluru

SRI RAMALINGA REDDY
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND MUZRAI
GOVT. OF KARNATAKA

Dr. G. Gururaj
Road Safety Advisor

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN YOUR SPEED CAN DECIDE WHETHER YOU WILL LIVE OR DIE.

Protecting public property and refraining from violence
A constitutional fundamental duty of every Indian

Road Safety - Our Priority

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Secretary, Transport Department

A. M. Yogeesh I.A.S.
Commissioner, Transport and Road Safety

J.Purushotham
Additional Commissioner &Member Secretary,
Karnataka State Road Safety Authority

CM hits out at Centre for reducing NABARD funding to State by 58%

Karnataka government has been giving farmers interest-free loans up to ₹5 lakh, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hit out at the Centre for reducing the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) funding by 58%, from ₹5,600 crore in 2023-24 to ₹2,340 crore in 2024-25, to the State, which would adversely impact the borrowings of farmers.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Monday after paying floral tribute to Kanakadasa, saint philosopher and poet, on his birth anniversary, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman requesting them not to do injustice to farmers by reducing NABARD funds to Karnataka.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah offering floral tribute to Kanakadasa on his birth anniversary in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NABARD has been granting loans to State-run cooperatives at 4% interest, and the cooperatives lend the money to farmers. The State government has been giving farmers interest-free loans up to ₹5 lakh, he said.

Upper Bhadra Project

He criticised Ms. Sitharaman for denying funds to the Upper Bhadra Project, which was announced in the Union Budget for 2023-24.

A sum of ₹5,300 crore was announced, but the Centre is yet to release funds to the State, he claimed.

Instead of seeking funds from the Centre, Union Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and Pralhad Joshi have been criticising the Congress government in Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

On the alleged false advertisement on implementation of 'guarantee schemes' in Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah said his government will file a law suit against the Maharashtra government for issuing 'false' advertisements in poll-bound Maharashtra that the flagship 'guarantee' schemes were not implemented in Karnataka. The Karnataka government has set aside ₹56,000 crore for implementing the schemes, he said.

On Mr. Kumaraswamy's allegations that the State government has decided to cancel eligible BPL cards to beneficiaries to reduce the burden on the State exchequer, the Chief Minister said: "We are taking measures to remove ineligible persons from the pool of BPL card beneficiaries. This step will help eligible beneficiaries get the benefits. We are helping the poor by implementing the Anna Bhagya scheme. Did the BJP and JD(S) governments implement it. Did the BJP governments in Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh implement guarantees? What moral right does Mr. Kumaraswamy have to speak on guarantees?"

"Karnataka has been paying annual tax of ₹4.5 lakh crore to the Central pool. But we are getting back ₹59,000 to ₹60,000 crore. That means that out of every ₹100, only ₹14 comes back to us," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Virtues among political leaders have become scarce and dear during their public speeches: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Virtues like maintaining decency, decorum, and responsible use of language by political leaders in public speeches have become scarce and dear these days, observed the High Court of Karnataka.

"As a Constitutional Court, this court could only expect and hope that responsible use of language would be employed by the leaders in their public speeches and all dispensations," observed a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, while dismissing with a cost of ₹25,000 a PIL petition, filed by All India Dalit Action Committee, Bengaluru.

The petitioner had sought a direction to the authorities from the court to take action against Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for throwing to the winds the norms of decency by allegedly making statements adverse to the modesty of women in his speech at a rally in Shivamogga during campaigning of Lok Sabha polls.

It was alleged in the petition that Mr. Gandhi had defamed a certain section of women while speaking about the episode of former MP Prajwal Revanna's rape cases and obscene videos. The petitioner pointed out that Mr. Gandhi had breached several provisions of the law apart from violating the election model code of conduct.

Without going into the merits or demits of alleged statements referred in the petition, the Bench said that this issue does not come under the purview of PIL petition when other recourses and remedies are available to the petitioner in relation to the alleged statements.

Leaving open to the petitioner to take appropriate recourse, the Bench said that it is not for the court to assess and opine about public utterances, which may be made by political leaders in course of their public speeches or during the election canvass.

The Bench imposed the cost on the petitioner for filing misconceived petition as a PIL and wasting judicial time.

12 booked, one held for protest over question paper 'leak'

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

The Sindhanur police have registered a case against 12 candidates and arrested one in connection with a protest over a question paper "leak" during the Panchayat Development Officers examination conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) there on Sunday.

The police action came after assistant lecturer and exam supervisor Basavaraj Tadkal lodged a complaint when hundreds of candidates blocked the main road for hours claiming that the question paper has been leaked.

An FIR stated that accused number 1 Kashipathi created confusion among the candidates by saying that a bundle of question papers was unsealed, while the papers were being distributed. He said the question paper has been leaked.

MUDA case: CM should've taken my suggestion on sites, says Somanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bonhomie: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna at the Ramanashree Sharana award ceremony organised by the All India Sharana Sahitya Parishat in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna told Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday that he had committed a mistake in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites scam by not going by his suggestion to return the sites earlier.

Mr. Somanna maintained that it would not have created a controversy if the Chief Minister's wife Parvathi had surrendered 14 sites allotted to her. The alleged scam broke out during the monsoon session of the State legislature in July 2024.

Both Mr. Somanna and Mr. Siddaramaiah came face to face at an award function in the city and discussed the alleged MUDA scam.

'Controversy could have been avoided'

Mr. Somanna told the Chief Minister that the controversy could have been avoided if he had listened to him. The problem could have been avoided if his wife had surrendered the MUDA sites back then itself. "Instead of surrendering, you spoke about the value of the sites in terms of crores of rupees," Mr. Somanna told Mr. Siddaramaiah.

He told the CM that "I will not say one thing in front of you and do the opposite. This (MUDA) scam would not have happened if you had listened to me". However, the Chief Minister defended his actions in the alleged MUDA scam.

On September 30, 2024, Ms. Parvathi returned the 14 sites to MUDA. A few days earlier. Mr. Siddaramaiah was questioned by the Lokayukta police in connection with the alleged irregularities in allotment of compensatory sites to his wife by MUDA.

'KPCC chief can refer Zameer's remarks to disciplinary panel'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday hinted that there was scope for disciplinary action against Minister B.Z. Zameer Khan for his controversial remarks on the last day of public campaign during the bypolls for Channapatna Assembly constituency.

He said KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar can refer Mr. Khan's issue to the party's disciplinary committee headed by Congress leader Rahman Khan. If the panel finds the remarks serious and damaging to the party's prospects, it can recommend disciplinary action, he noted.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Dr. Parameshwara said Mr. Shivakumar has already reacted to Mr. Khan's comment and stated that it was wrong. If the matter is brought up before the disciplinary committee, it will seek an explanation from the Minister, he said.

Dr. Parameshwara said he was a member of the Congress Disciplinary Committee at the national level which was headed by senior Congress leader A.K. Antony, and recalled issuing notices to even the Chief Ministers over their remarks seeking explanation. Mr. Rahman has the powers to look into the matter if the KPCC chief refers Mr. Khan's comment to him, he said.

Mr. Khan, who was in Mysuru recently, had apologised for his remarks on Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy but the Opposition sought his resignation. Channapatna Congress candidate C.P. Yogeshwara too expressed that Mr. Khan's comment may impact the party's bypoll prospects.

COVID-19 'scam': MP denies charges

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

C.N. Manjunath FILE PHOTO

Cardiologist and Bengaluru Rural MP C.N. Manjunath has denied the charges levelled against him in the alleged irregularities in COVID-19 procurement during the erstwhile BJP regime in the State.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday, Dr. Manjunath sought to clarify that he did not head the State government's COVID-19 task force as alleged in certain sections of the media. Pointing out that he was one of the invitees to the task force, which also comprised of doctors, experts, and officials, Dr. Manjunath said his role was restricted to giving opinion and suggestions on management of the pandemic.

Dr. Manjunath, who earlier headed the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, said COVID-19 was a "global medical emergency" and he was only giving suggestions as a specialist.

Fielding questions about the outcome of the byelections to Channapatna Assembly constituency, Dr. Manjunath said the voters and party workers were of the opinion that JD(S)-BJP candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy would win.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its present Owner **Mr. Asadullah Shariff S/o Mr. Azeezullah Shariff,** residing at No.94/1, M M Road, Pulikeshinagar, Bangalore-560 005 Karnataka.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 7 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property together with the building comprising of Ground and 4 upper floors standing thereon situated at No. 94/1, **Totally measuring 1,164Sq.ft,** M.M Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005. thereon bounded on the:

East by : Private Property
West by : Private Property bearing No 101
North by : Road
South by : Private Property
MEASURING: East to West : 25 Feet 9 Inches
North to South : 45 Feet 2 Inches

In all measuring 1164 Square Feet together with the construction thereon measuring **3800 Sq Feet.**

(S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)
No.60, 2nd floor, M.M. Complex, Chinnaswamy Mudaliar Road,Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051. Mob: 9845049766 / 9243132714
Bangalore Dated: 19.11.2024

Nikhil appeals to people not to place bets on bypoll outcome

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the hard-fought battle in Channapatna bypoll expected to go down to the wire, stakes are high among poll-watchers in the constituency.

Days after Congress candidate C.P. Yogeshwar appealed to his followers and others not to place bets on the byelection outcome, it was the turn of NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy to appeal the same.

"No one should bet on election results and lose financially. Switch off your mobile phones and sleep peacefully. Many cases of suicides over betting have been registered," Mr. Nikhil told presspersons in Hassan on Monday. He, however, did not specify whether the reported suicides were in the past or present.

"The support that I have received from people have raised confidence of my victory. I am confident of winning with the blessings of God and the people," he said.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy, NDA candidate, along with other leaders during a roadshow before filing his nomination papers for the Channapatna Assembly byelection. FILE PHOTO

> No one should bet on election results and lose financially. Switch off your mobile phones and sleep peacefully.
> **NIKHIL KUMARASWAMY**
> NDA candidate

The Vokkaliga heartland, where electioneering is intense, is known for people placing high bets over election results. In the previous elections, there have been instances of people not only losing money and jewellery, but also vehicles. In rare cases, residential buildings and harvested crops have been placed on bets, causing enormous financial losses to those losing the bets.

Referring to the lottery ban imposed by his father and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy when he was the Chief Minister, Mr. Nikhil spoke of the social problems that online betting was creating. "Several youths are committing suicide due to online betting. It has to be stopped. This can break society, and youth should not indulge in online betting," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Remembrance Of

Shri K Shankar Rao (Chairman)
Woodlands Group of Hotels
Chennai, Bangalore & Penang
24th YEAR

Wife	: K.S. Rathi Rao	Grand Daughter	: Mrs. Smitha Rao
Son	: K. Rajesh Rao	Grand Son	: K. Srikrishna Rao
Daughter in Law	: Mrs. K.R. Akhila Rao	Grand Daughter	: K. Shrutha
Daughter	: Mrs. Deepika Rao	Grand Son	: Aditiya Rao
		Grand Son	: Aneesh Rao

IN MEMORIAM

In Eternal Memory
A.M Gopala Reddy
Hosur

15.04.1949 — 19.11.2015
We love you and will miss you forever
Loving Family | Relatives | Friends

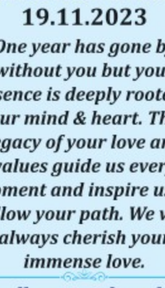
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

13TH ANNIVERSARY

SRI.K.VENKATESWARAN F.C.A
Chartered Accountant, Madurai
Fondly Remembered by
Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law
Grand Children & Great Grand Children
Friends & Relatives

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY



VICTOR DAVIDAR
Jan 23, 1938 - Nov 19, 2022
Remembering you each day
Kalyani and Sarita
7550219730

1st Death Anniversary

Bhavani Leela Surendranath
19.11.2023
One year has gone by without you but your presence is deeply rooted in our mind & heart. The legacy of your love and values guide us every moment and inspire us to follow your path. We will always cherish your immense love.
Fondly remembered by:
Janaki & Venu
Daughter & Son-in-law

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಲೋ.ಇ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂ: 08022122856
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 10/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15.11.2024

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2 ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಜೀವನ್ ಭೀಮಾನಗರದ ವಸತಿಗೃಹದ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹುಜೂರ್ ಖಜಾನೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಕ್ರ ಸಂ: 1 ರಿಂದ 4 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇತರೆ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಯಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15.11.2024 ರಿಂದ 23.11.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 25.11.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27.11.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ನಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/Zen/2024-25

‘It is important to know elephants’ backgrounds and their society’

Ecologist and educator T.N.C. Vidya in an interview with *The Hindu* reveales fascinating insights about Asian elephant behaviour and her thoughts on the Kabani Elephant Project

INTERVIEW

T.N.C. Vidya

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

‘Elephant behaviour varies; in areas where there’s a lot of disturbance, they behave very aggressively, whereas, in places where elephants realise people are not a threat, they are not so aggressive,’ says Vidya. FILE PHOTO

Elephants are a good system for studying socio-ecological predictions,” says ecologist and educator T.N.C. Vidya at a recent talk titled Understanding Animal Societies held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru. Vidya is referring specifically to Asian elephants, which she studies because they live in a wide range of habitats and are highly social. Females lead their complex societies, while males disperse out of the herd when they are 10 years old, she points out. The males may temporarily associate with males and females from other herds, but they are alone the rest of the time, unlike female elephants, who continue to spend their lives in these herds.

This talk, part of ‘Kaapi with Kuriosity’, a monthly public lecture series organised by the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR) in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium and other educational institutions in Bengaluru, also revealed fascinating insights about Asian elephants and other social animals. In her talk, Vidya, a scientist specialising in social behaviour in animals and the evolution of sociality at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, delved into the advantages of being social, the degrees of sociality, types of social organisations, socioecological theory, the importance of studying sociality and the Kabini Elephant Project.

One of the things that constantly comes up is the way that humans have been destroying elephant corridors, their habitats, and feeding spaces in the name of development. Does this impact how elephant societies function, and how?

When discussing human disturbance and how they (elephants) react, that depends significantly on what the disturbance is. Intense disturbance can, of course, impact elephant societies. For instance, in Vietnam, the size of the wild elephant population dramatically declined after the wars. In a study we did on elephants there, we found that a single social group of nine individuals had three different maternal lineages. This means that members of several groups have been exterminated, and the survivors have formed a group, even if they are not related.

Vidya delivering her talk at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium. ICTS

When elephant habitats are destroyed, and elephants are pushed into restricted spaces, they may interact differently with one another socially. There is not much work on this.

In terms of behaviour, there are differences in how elephants behave towards people. In areas where there’s a lot of disturbance, elephants behave very aggressively, whereas in places where elephants realise people are not a threat, they are not so aggressive. So, there is considerable variation in behaviour depending on the disturbance.

You spoke a lot about the Asian elephant and the fusion-fission sort of society, which is very different from the African bush elephant, where the herd is larger and more cohesive. Could you tell us more?

The African bush or savanna elephant has a multi-tiered fusion-fission society among females, meaning there are different levels of organisation. So, you can have a family group or a second-tier unit with a few adult females and their dependent offspring (together, the first tier). Some of these family groups can associate together temporarily to form bond groups, or kinship groups, or third-tier units. Then, some of these bond groups can associate together temporarily to form another level, the clan or fourth-tier unit. Therefore, it is a hierarchical, multi-tiered society.

Hierarchical multi-tiered societies are easily detected if there is not much variability across social units at each level of social structure. For instance, in the case of the African savanna elephant, there might not be much variation if you look at how much time adult females spend with others in the family group and look at multiple such family groups. Similarly, see how much time multiple family groups associate with each other in the form of a bond group and what the variability in this is across bond groups; there should not be much variability. If you had such a system, it would have a more hierarchical, rigid society.

In the case of the Asian elephant, however, there may be more variability within a social level - there may be one family group in which adult females are tightly knit and, say, spend 80% of their time as a family group. There may be another family group in which they’re not so tightly knit and spend only 30% of their time together. And then maybe they occasionally associate with each other to form the equivalent of a bond group.

But the thing is, because associations within each social level are so variable, you cannot easily clearly identify what the family group is, what a bond group is, and so on. All you can say is that there is a multi-level society, and there are different levels at which they associate. So, we just call the most inclusive social level the clan and don’t generally split the clan into sub-levels.

We think that the difference in social organisation between the African savanna and Asian elephants largely arises from differences in group sizes, with group sizes in the former being larger than in the latter. If there is a constraint on feeding together in large groups, females from an entire social level may not be able to associate together. Changes in associations to meet other clan-mates may result in a fluid society.

Could you tell us a little about the Kabini Elephant Project, which has studied elephants since 2009?

The Kabini Elephant Project was set up to carry out long-term monitoring of known individuals, where you identify individuals and then follow them over time to understand the social organisation of the Asian elephant and test some socioecological predictions.

Few details were known about the social organisation of the Asian elephant when the project began and similarity to the African savanna elephant was assumed.

We also wanted to look at demography and what is happening to the population over time... to get better estimates of things like birth and death rates. Otherwise, if you try to estimate these without having identified animals over time, they will be very approximate because many assumptions will have to be made.

Over the course of our work, we have been examining several aspects: female and male social organisation, genetic relatedness, dominance structure and tests of socioecological theory, musth and reproduction in males, allomothering and so on.

You talked about how, when you started, there wasn’t enough research available on the social behaviour of elephants. Has this narrative changed in the recent past? Why, in your opinion, is it so essential to understand different animal societies, including elephants?

I wouldn’t say there is a lot of work on the social organisation and behaviour of the Asian elephant even now. Long-term studies on the African savanna elephant have been going on for a long time. For instance, in Amboseli (in Kenya), long-term monitoring has been going on since the 1970s, and in Samburu since the 1990s. There has been long-term elephant monitoring in Uda Walawe, Sri Lanka since the 2000s. It is important to study different animal societies to understand sociality and find out if there are general rules that explain social organisation. We do not have very many studies on the social behaviour of different species in the country. There’s a lot of interest in birds and herpetology in the country nowadays, but we tend to be very tiger-centric when it comes to mammals. There is not a lot of work done on herbivores, in general.

Of course, there are many studies on elephants, but the focus is often on the human side of human-elephant conflict. Of course, it is important to study human-elephant conflict, but it is also important to understand the elephants’ backgrounds and their society.

For instance, depending on social structure, individuals can learn from others, such as how to break fences or raid crops. When you capture an animal that is coming into contact with humans, and you don’t know who else that animal has interacted with, you’re often not solving the problem. Similarly, when you translocate animals, if you have a problem animal that is translocated somewhere else, you might be translocating the problem - this was seen in Sri Lanka.

If a dam is built and a new reservoir is formed, you may think that there are more resources now. But this may create more aggression between animals, as we find between elephant clans in Kabini.

Similarly, some recent news was that BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) was planning to install feeding stations for dogs to reduce aggression. That’s the exact opposite of what you would expect from socioecological theory. According to socioecological theory, when high-quality resources are clumped in one place, there will be more fights over that resource, not fewer fights.

Today, many new tools, including AI, are being used to understand animal behaviour and for conservation. What are your thoughts on this?

I am not such a big fan of AI in relation to some aspects because I think in order to understand wild animals, it is important to be out in the field, actually observing them (for the species that are visible) and their habitat. We shouldn’t outsource everything to machines.

One big problem with animal behaviour/ecology/conservation research nowadays is that there is not much boots-on-the-ground expertise and, therefore, not a lot of connection with natural history in general. In India, say 25 years ago, if you had a wildlife researcher who was not actually walking the forest and knew different parts of the forest, they would be derided. Today, we want to collect data without spending too much time in the field. But unless you’re out there, you could miss out on a lot of stuff.

That said, AI would be very useful for certain kinds of problems. For instance, while it seems to be performing poorly at the moment, it would be useful for individual identification and save us a ton of time if it worked well.

Young troupe SOULitude Theatre brings its Kannada thriller drama Karma to Ranga Shankara

Karma is a psychological thriller Kannada drama that delves into the complications of human relationships and subconscious indulgences

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Scenes from the play *Karma*. S SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SOULitude Theatre, a young theatre troupe that began its theatre journey in 2023, is set to showcase its new Kannada play *Karma*, for the first time at Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar, today at 7:30 p.m. After performing a couple of shows around the city over the one year, this will be its sixth show in the city.

Psychological Thriller

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Madhuri S.G., the writer and director of the play says this is a psychological thriller, surrounding the life of a woman. “What goes around in her mind is executed on stage. The character traces her flashbacks and revolves around a specific date over the years. The play moves like a time machine, and the character is a 23-year-old, 25, 34, 41 and so on.”

“Last year in June we started working on the play. We rehearsed for three and a half months every day. However, we did not go into the script in the early days of the process. Since we were a new team, we had to work on team building, and theatre activities, and only after that, we started reading the script and understanding the characters. It was a slow process, and the play premiered in October 2023. This will be our first show in Ranga Shankara,” Madhuri adds.

Madhuri says that the first few shows that were performed in Kannada had a very good response, and the troupe is now preparing to perform in English for all audiences.

According to the synopsis of the play *Karma* is a psychological thriller Kannada drama that delves into the complications of human relationships, encompassing marriage, friendship, love, affair, and subconscious indulgences. It unravels how the choices made unconsciously by individuals bear a conscious impact on their lives.

Two perspective

The narrative unfolds through two perspectives - one presented by the younger versions of the characters, and the other by their older counterparts. This raises intriguing questions - do they engage in time travel? exist separately in their respective eras? or perhaps, cross paths at some juncture? The essence of *Karma* encapsulates the notion that ‘What you think, you become’.

With lights designed by Surya Saathi, the 80-minute-long play is performed by Rupesh S.K, Soniya Patil, Kushi Badarinath, Swaroop Rani, Divyashree Jayaram, Srinivas Bhargav, Prithviraj V., and Shubhangi Ganesan.

The play is open to audiences over the age of twelve and tickets for the show are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 19, 1974

Small Industries’ Plea to Reduce Power Cut

BANGALORE: The small-scale industries have made out a case for reducing the power cut in the State from the existing 35 per cent. The Karnataka Small-scale Industries Association (KASSIA), in a memorandum to the Industries Minister, has pleaded for totally exempting the small-scale industries from the power cut or at least bringing it down to 10 per cent as has been done in the case of a number of industries.
Their case is that the 35 per cent cut imposed on low tension consumers has a crippling effect on the small-scale industries.

Advantages of Kottur-Harihar Rail Link

Harihar: Kottur is one of the biggest trading centres in Bellary district. The railway line from Hospet to Kottur was in the first instance laid to lift the agricultural produce from here to other centers. Narapanahalli is the headquarters of the Taluq. The population of these two towns exceed 20,000 each, and have been raised to the status of municipality by a recent order of the State Government.

CITYBEATS

Culinary homage

ONGOING
Specialty chef of Alto Vino, winner of the AA Lifetime Achievement Award, has come up with a menu that has been -inspired by legendary Italian chef Antonio Carluccio's recipe books in tribute to him. The menu will be available till November 25, 6.30pm to 11pm.
At Bengaluru Marriott Hotel, Whitefield. Call 8779180953 for details.

Room on a roof

ONGOING
Bricks Bar and Restaurant is the latest entry to JP Nagar's eating out scene. This new rooftop bar provides an open-sky ambience in an area of 4,000 sq ft. Sip on classic whiskies and fresh brews as well as a variety of gins and tequilas alongside its expansive menu.
Bricks Bar and Restaurant is at Dollar Layout, 3rd Phase, JP Nagar. Call 7880109652 for details.

On a magic carpet

ONGOING
Nexus has installed their 360 Immersive Dome open to visitors of all ages; it is a multi-sensory wonderland that combines dynamic visuals and interactive storytelling. Each show is five-minute long and features *Aladdin, Quantum World* and *Black Hole*.
Tickets are priced at ₹150 for a single entry. On till January 1, 2025 at Nexus, Whitefield.

Melodies, music and the drum groove

Nuno Bettencourt, the Extreme lead guitarist talks about their iconic acoustic ballad, the upcoming concert in Bengaluru, composing for movies and more

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

Bengaluru would not need Steven Tyler to convince Boston rock band, Extreme, to play their famous acoustic ballad, 'More Than Words' at Bandland 2024. Written by vocalist Gary Cherone and lead guitarist Nuno Bettencourt, the band had to fight their music label to release 'More Than Words' as a single. Upon release, the song, on Extreme's second album, *Pornograffitti* (1990), zoomed to number one and got the band international recognition.

After a point, as Extreme began to be referred to as the 'More than Words' guys, the band, according to Cherone, began to resent the song. Apparently when Extreme was touring with Aerosmith in Poland, they decided not to play the song, leading an exasperated Tyler to write "play the (expletive) song!" on their dressing room door.

"I've never had to make peace with the song," says Bettencourt speaking over a video call from Temecula, California. "We made that song. That song didn't make the band. Rock fans know who we are. It's only the people that aren't Extreme fans, maybe, know us for 'More Than Words', but our true fans know us for everything that we do. So we don't have a problem with it whatsoever"(smiles)."

To a question of whether Extreme will be playing the iconic anthem at Bandland, Bettencourt teases with a "no," before smiling saying, "Of course, we will play it."

The genesis of 'More Than Words' has been well documented. "Oh, come on, it came like any other song. You pick up the guitar, play some music, sing along, write a lyric, tell the story, and there it is. It's just like any other song that you write. There was nothing special or different about it. It's very basic stuff, very simple."

> You see footage and compose to that visual, that emotion, and try to stay out of the way. You never want the music to overtake the scene.
> **NUNO BETTENCOURT**
> Extreme's lead guitarist

Every song is different, says Bettencourt about the music-or-lyrics conundrum. "It depends. Sometimes you have a story and a title, sometimes you have melodies, music, sometimes the drum groove..."

The 58-year old musician released a solo album, *Schizophonic*, has worked as a guest musician with Janet Jackson, Toni Braxton and Rihanna among others, and as part of a band. "The first thing I did was to be in a band. I'm a big fan of all the bands that I grew up on. So it's being in a band that works best for me."

Working solo is different, Bettencourt says. "It's just stuff that's probably more personal to you, songs that are more personal, and being able to do things that maybe you don't do with the band. It is not more or less joyful, just different. It's taking a break from what you do."

Composing for movies, including on the soundtrack for *Smart People* is fun, says Bettencourt. "I love movies. I don't get to do it a lot. I would like to do more of it." Scoring for a movie, the Portuguese-American guitarist says, involves the visuals. "You see footage and compose to that visual, that emotion, and try to stay out of the way, be a part of the scene. You never want the music to overtake the scene."

Music overpowering the scene in the movie is not good, Bettencourt says. "It's up to the director, though. There's no right or wrong. If they want it to be the strong part of the scene, then that's what it will be."

Working in a band comes with its set of disagreements and compromises. "If you are married or ever been married, you know the answer to that question (smiles). Try being married four ways at once, not just to one person, but three at the same time and good luck with that."

In the final count it works, says Bettencourt. "It's not rocket science. Being in a band has its ups and downs. A band is like any family. All families are dysfunctional, especially rock bands."

Admitting to not enjoying touring, Bettencourt says, "I enjoy touring to play on stage, but the other 20 hours is tough. Being away from friends and family and living out of suitcases, travelling , sleeping in buses, stuff like that, is definitely more of a younger man's game. In your 20s, you love it, but once you have been doing it for 10 years, and we've been doing it for nearly 40 years, it loses its glamour pretty quickly."

Extreme performed in Manipur in 2019 at the Shi-Rock Festival. "We've never played in a major city like we're about to do now, and we're excited." Fans, Bettencourt says, "can look forward to the best rock show of their lives."

Extreme performs as part of BookMyShow Live's Bandland 2024 on November 23 and 24 at NICE Grounds, BIEC, Bengaluru.

For better or verse Extreme is back in India this year, lead guitarist Nuno Bettencourt (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Heroic efforts save the day

Vivek MV

Some characters are tailor-made for certain actors. Shivarajkumar was superb as the crime boss of the fictional village of Ronapura in *Mufti*.The director of that film, Narthan, has now come up with *Bhairathi Ranagal*,a prequel to the 2017 blockbuster, which is a celebration of the hit character.

More of a star vehicle than a director's film, *Bhairathi Ranagal* begins with a gripping origin story of the titular character. When we first see him, as a 12-year-old boy, Ranagal gives a glimpse of his menacing attitude. Unlike his father, who follows the rules, Ranagal vouches for instant justice.

Narthan's direction is meticulous as he unfolds the tale of Ronapura, a village lacking basic facilities. We see Ranagal become a do-gooder lawyer, and Shivarajkumar lends grace to this subdued shade of the character.

Even as the titular gangster, the star does justice to the aura we have associated with the character. He has minimal lines to say, but his body language exudes fear. Narthan uses the actor's fiery eyes to convince people why the character is a feared gangster.

However, despite these positives, the first half is engulfed by dullness as the film is so emotionally distant from its viewers. The generic story offers few surprises, and the film suffers from inconsistent pacing.

After a long episode of factory workers fighting for a union against corporate sharks, and a redundant violent scene involving actor Shabeer Kallarakkal, we accept that the film's fate depends on what happens after Ranagal's transformation into a gangster.

Narthan reserves all his ideas for his protagonist and fails to bolster the story with interesting characters. Rukmini Vasanth plays the typical cinema female lead, who is impressed by the protagonist's noble ways but has nothing more to add to the story.

The film finds its grip with a rousing interval block. *Bhairathi Ranagal* becomes a feast for fans as we witness Shivarajkumar roll back years, with his vintage performance blending beautifully with his arresting screen presence. The punch dialogues are fresh and suit Ranagal's all-conquering reputation.

But beyond the fan service, *Bhairathi Ranagal* lacks the depth of *Mufti*. In that film, Narthan brilliantly balanced two important characters (essayed by Srii Murali and Shivarajkumar) and scripted an engaging crime saga with meaty conflicts.

The prequel takes the usual route, involving themes such as illegal mining and land scams. The underwhelming climax involving a toothless villain (Rahul Bose) leaves you with nothingness.

However, thanks to its high moments, *Bhairathi Ranagal* is a film made for the big screen. Narthan plays to the strengths of Shivarajkumar and fans have reasons to rejoice.

Bhairathi Ranagal is currently running in theatres

FILM REVIEW

Bhairathi Ranagal (Kannada)
Director: Narthan
Cast: Shivarajkumar, Rukmini Vasanth, Rahul Bose, Devaraj, Gopalkrishna Deshpande
Runtime: 134 minutes
Storyline: A prequel to the 2018 film *Mufti*, the film delves into the origin of its lead character, Bhairathi Ranagal, and focuses on his journey to power.

Role call Actor Shivarajkumar in a still from *Bhairathi Ranagal*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

God of small things

Ruth Dhanaraj

There is no way one can miss a Ganapati Hegde – even from a hundred paces, the gentle glow of the forest draws you in, beckoning you to be a part of its serenity. And while Forest Fables may sport the artist's signature style, the stories it weaves in this series are different.

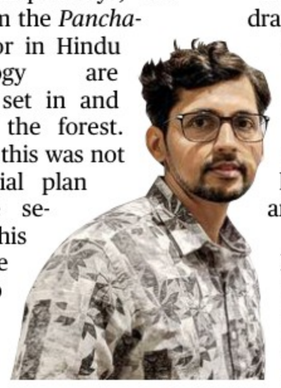
Bengaluru-based artist Ganapati Hegde says he has always felt a connect with nature, and the harmonious coexistence of its creatures, both great and small. "I have never seen a tiger or some of the bigger animals, but I am drawn even to the smaller ones such as frogs, insects and birds which also inhabit the woods. Out there, you can see parallels between human and animal behaviour – I believe that signifies the kinship all living beings share," says Ganapati.

Talking about Forest Fables, Ganapati says, "Stories from the *Panchatantra* or in Hindu mythology are usually set in and around the forest. Though this was not my initial plan for the series, this narrative came up within me during the execution of these works and it has turned out quite well."

Woodland wonders From Forest Fables by Ganapati Hegde. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The artist recalls an incident where he came upon a group of children chucking stones at a lizard sunning itself on a tree. "Even though I managed to dissuade them, I came away wishing there was a way to cover or protect these creatures that were dependent on nature to survive."

"In our culture, we drape a shawl or *ponnada* over achievers and celebrities as a mark of respect – similarly, I felt a shawl or cloth would honour those animals."



True enough, in Forest Fables one can see 'Miss Owley' or 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', a dignified langur donning brightly patterned stoles. "In Hindu mythology, Bajrang refers to Hanuman, while *bhaijaan* is an Urdu word for brother. I felt this title was apt to depict brotherhood. Similarly, I have titled my work of an Indian parrot wearing a shawl as 'Rani,' as that is how fortune tellers coax them out of their cage to pick a card," says the artist, who believes names do add value to certain pieces.

Visitors to KYNKYNY will not only see the 15 works of art in this series, but also two works Ganapati has executed on two of the gallery walls in charcoal – one of a lion-tailed macaque and the other of a chameleon completely covered with foliage – though his preferred medium is acrylic and oil on canvas.

Created over the past one and a half years, the artist himself admits there is an underlying shift in tone with regard to his work. "I feel there has been a gradual development in my form. While one would see animals and birds in my previous works too, I believe in this series they appear in an improved version, both skill wise and thought wise."

Ganapati's previous series Into The Forest, executed during the lockdown were a satirical take on mankind's preoccupation with earning a living. "Though I enjoy painting and do not see it as 'work', I keep working on a particular piece until I am completely satisfied with it."

The artist says though he won a national award in 2010 for his Life in Nature series, his work did not immediately resonate with a lot of people. "Most people look for conventional ideas of beauty in paintings; they tend to keep away from anything that might be considered odd."

Forest Fables is on display at KYNKYNY Art Gallery till November 22, 2024. Entry free. Sunday holiday.

As Chikungunya cases rise in Telangana, U.S. issues travel advisory

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

Telangana reported 178 cases of chikungunya till August, surpassing last year numbers.

In response to the increasing chikungunya cases in Telangana, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a 'Level 2' travel advisory for U.S. travellers returning from Telangana. "[The] CDC has identified a higher-than-expected number of chikungunya cases among the U.S. travellers returning from Telangana," the notice said.

The advisory, released on November 8, urges travellers to exercise enhanced precautions. This is the second CDC travel advisory for India this year, following a similar alert in August regarding a Zika virus outbreak in Maharashtra.

The CDC's travel advisory system categorises risks into four levels. Level 1 advises travellers to practise usual precautions, while Level 2 (as applied to Telangana now) calls for enhanced precautions. Level 3 urges reconsideration of non-essential travel and Level 4 recommends avoiding all travel. The current advisory reflects growing concerns over the spread of vector-borne diseases in the region.

"If you are pregnant, reconsider travel to the state of Telangana, India, particularly if you are close to delivering your baby. Mothers infected around the time of delivery can pass the virus to their baby before or during delivery. Newborns infected in this way or by a mosquito bite are at risk for severe illness, including poor long-term outcomes," the travel notice said.

Status unclear

Telangana's Health Department reported 178 chikungunya cases as of August 31, surpassing figures from previous years. However, no updated data has been released in the past three months, leaving the current situation unclear.

Chikungunya is a viral disease spread through mosquito bites, with symptoms typically appearing three to seven days after infection. Common symptoms include fever, joint pain, headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, and rash. While most individuals recover within a week, severe joint pain can persist for months or even years in some cases.

The disease has been reported in various regions, including Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Indian and Pacific Oceans. People at higher risk of severe illness include newborns, older adults and those with pre-existing conditions.

Frenzied finale to poll campaign in Palakkad

UDF, LDF, BJP battle it out for Assembly byelection; nearly 1.94 lakh voters will reach the polling stations tomorrow as Palakkad goes to the polls in a byelection that saw an aggressive campaign

Abdul Latheef Naha
PALAKKAD

Euphoric: The closing campaigning by the LDF for the Palakkad Assembly byelection on Monday; the supporters of UDF during a roadshow in Palakkad town on the final day of the byelection. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Like a grand symphony reaching its climax, the month-long electioneering for the Palakkad Assembly byelection in Kerala drew to a frenzied finale here on Monday evening.

About 1.94 lakh voters will reach the polling stations on Wednesday morning as Palakkad goes to the polls to replace Shafi Parambil as its member in the Assembly. Mr. Parambil's election to the Lok Sabha from Vadakara has brought about the byelection in Palakkad.

The United Democratic Front (UDF), the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the BJP displayed an aggressive verve to produce a perfect recipe for a thrilling finale to a campaign that saw a series of political twists and turns.

As a last-ditch effort to sway the voters, the three fronts started their final roadshow around 2 p.m. from different locations in Palakkad town. UDF candidate Rahul Mamkootathil began his roadshow from Olavakode. The UDF candidate carried a trolley bag with him, trolling his opponents for their deflated allegations of carrying black money in a trolley bag.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, V.K. Sreekandan, MP, Mr. Parambil, Muslim Youth League State president Syed Munawwarali Shihab Thangal, defected BJP spokesperson and Congress leader Sandeep Varier, and film actor Ramesh Pisharody joined the UDF show.

LDF candidate P. Sarin began his roadshow from the CPI(M) office. CPI(M) district secretary E.N. Suresh Babu and CPI district secretary K.P. Suresh Raj flanked Dr. Sarin in an open jeep. Other CPI(M) leaders like A.K. Balan and Minister for Local Self-Government M.B. Rajesh joined the show later. Dr. Sarin mounted a platform attached to a crane boom and addressed the ecstatic crowds from above.

BJP candidate C. Krishnakumar began his roadshow from the Melamuri junction. BJP State president K. Surendran, vice-president Sobha Surendran, and NDA convener Thushar Vellappally accompanied Mr. Krishnakumar.

Hub of campaign

The fervent speeches and the crescendo of slogans turned Palakkad's stadium premises into the hub of a campaign finale as the three roadshows converged there. The sonic boom from the three fronts provided a cacophony of conviction for people who watched the spectacle.

From day one to the very end of the campaign, electioneering in Palakkad witnessed allegations, controversies, and political defections. All eyes were on Palakkad as it witnessed allegations of black money and bogus voter enlistment.

Top leaders of the Congress, the CPI(M) and the BJP not only camped in Palakkad but also were instrumental in chalking out strategies for their respective fronts.

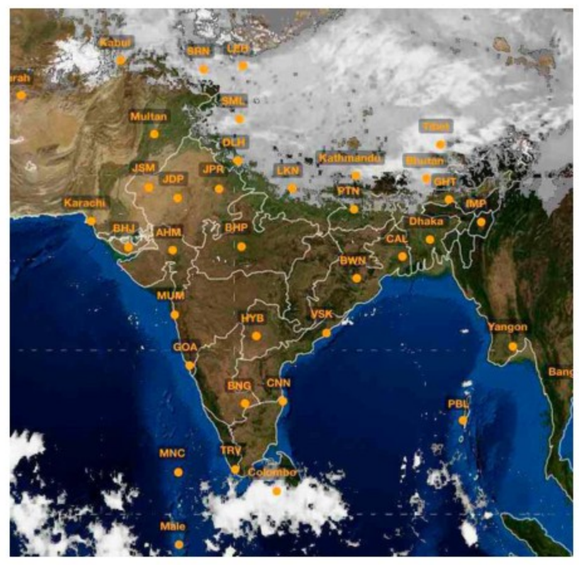
Pinarayi rally

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan chose to campaign in Palakkad in the last two days. However, former BJP State committee member Sandeep Varier's defection to the Congress stole the show from the Chief Minister's meetings.

The three fronts are exuding confidence. The UDF sees a victory margin of 10,000 and above. The LDF affirms that it will garner more than 50,000 votes. And the BJP says it will enhance its vote share to 60,000. The people will have to wait until November 23 for the results.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Mahe. Dense/very dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.8	17.6	Kozhikode	2	35.0	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	32.7	18.9	Kurnool	—	32.0	22.6
Aizawl	—	27.6	14.8	Lucknow	—	30.6	15.3
Allahabad	—	32.0	15.6	Madurai	—	31.5	23.4
Bengaluru	—	27.6	20.3	Mangaluru	3	33.2	24.0
Bhopal	—	30.0	13.2	Mumbai	—	36.0	21.5
Bhubaneswar	—	30.7	16.8	Mysuru	—	30.2	20.4
Chandigarh	—	25.3	14.0	New Delhi	—	23.5	16.2
Chennai	—	31.0	26.8	Patna	—	27.4	18.9
Coimbatore	—	30.0	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.5	26.7
Dehradun	—	26.4	9.8	Puducherry	—	30.2	24.2
Gangtok	—	17.4	10.7	Pune	—	30.6	14.5
Goa	—	33.0	25.0	Raipur	—	31.2	16.5
Guwahati	—	30.7	18.6	Ranchi	—	25.6	13.5
Hubballi	—	31.0	18.0	Shillong	—	20.6	9.5
Hyderabad	—	30.2	17.5	Shimla	—	20.4	8.6
Imphal	—	28.0	10.0	Srinagar	—	15.3	5.0
Jaipur	—	28.2	14.0	Thiruvananthapuram	4	34.7	24.4
Kochi	8	32.2	24.0	Tiruchi	5.6	29.7	24.0
Kohima	—	20.4	8.5	Vijayawada	—	30.4	22.2
Kolkata	—	28.2	17.7	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	22.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	.42	.29	...205	...152	
Bengaluru	.17	.32	.58	...152	94	
Chennai	.15	.30	.23	...251	...146	
Delhi	.17	107	118	...500	...495	
Hyderabad	...5	108	.42	...162	...153	
Kolkata	.11	.34	.23	...228	...163	
Lucknow	...9	.36	.98	...300	...257	
Mumbai	...6	112	.24	...146	...138	
Pune	...3	.72	.44	...195	...130	
Visakhapatnam	...8	.47	.39	...123	...113	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 494 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ASSOCIATION FOR DRONE AVIONICS RESEARCH AND TESTING (ADART)
NO.86, CHAMIERS ROAD,TEYNAMPET, CHENNAI-600 018
CIN- U71200TN2024NPL169765

NIT.No.ADART/DTI/UAS/2024-25 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 19.11.2024

Association for Drone Avionics Research And Testing (ADART) invites **Tenders for Design, Engineering, Construction, Fabrication, Erection & Commissioning of Admin Block and Hanger for Development, Operation and Management of Defense Testing Infrastructure (DTI) For Unmanned Aerial System(UAS) On A Turn Key Basis for ADART** in an extent of 1.26 acres in Plot No. 134 / 2, Survey No:149/2pt,5pt & 6pt and 150/3bt,13pt,14pt,15,16,17pt, at Vadagal B Village, Sriperambadur Taluk, Kancheepuram District under "Two Cover System" from Class-IA State Level Civil Contractors registered with PWD/TNHB/TNPHC/TNUHDB/Highways/Any Department/ Quasi-Government Departments of Government of Tamil Nadu, Central Government Departments having experience in undertaking similar nature of works.

Name of Work	Approx.Value of Work	EMD
Design, Engineering, Construction, Fabrication, Erection & Commissioning of Admin Block and Hanger	Rs. 12.6 Crores	Rs. 6,40,000

Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **18.12.2024 at 3.00 P.M.**
For more Details, Please visit **https://www.adart.in**

Chief Executive Officer
ADART

Postpone TENDER NOTIFICATION Date : 13-11-2024

(Through e-Procurement portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-I-Technical Bid and Section-2- Financial Bid)
Tender Notification No. 12/2024-25
Dated : 30-10-2024 (Call-1 & Call - 2)

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered Civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4,** form The Total no of works is 1, **H/A : 5054-04-337-0-01-154 ORF Work** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 230.00 lakhs, ORF Work **Postpone** in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only. **Date of Events as follows :**

* Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal.
  From 30-10-2024 to 13-11-2024 upto 16.00 Hrs. **Postpone** Date : 13-11-2024 to 27-11-2024 Upto 16.00 Hrs.
* **Pre-Bid Meeting Date** From 04-11-2024. **Postpone** Date : 19-11-2024.
  Date & Time for downloading of Last Date : 13-11-2024. **Postpone** Date : 27-11-2024 Upto 16.00 Hrs.
* Date & Time for opening of Technical bid Date : 15-11-2024 **Postpone** Date : 29-11-2024 upto 16.00 Hrs.
* Date & Time for opening of Financial bid Date : 19-11-2024 **Postpone** Date : 30-11-2024 upto 16.00 Hrs.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR : CHANAGAR:405:2024-25 PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:34:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–11–2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ) (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 07 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.01 ರಿಂದ 07 ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 19–11–2024 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 25–11–2024 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 25–11–2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 26–11–2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.05

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/507/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
No. 2749 // Dt. 14.11.2024 //

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR CUVDA ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-12/2024-25

1. Name of the Work : **Road Works**
2. Total No. of Work : **13 No.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.434.17 to 1125.00 Lakhs**
4. Class of Contractor : **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As per Annexure**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-12/2024-25	21.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	05.12.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	04.12.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	06.12.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
O-658: Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
OIPR-25180/11/0014/2425

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender EMD Amount		Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	South East-2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/2065/2024-25 Date: 14.11.2024	1	₹ 20,81,718/- ₹ 50,000/-	05.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm	09.12.2024 after 4:30 pm
			2	₹ 40,53,819/- ₹ 81,070/-		
			3	₹ 42,81,313/- ₹ 85,630/-		
			4	₹ 27,60,439/- ₹ 55,210/-		
			5	₹ 32,07,512/- ₹ 64,150/-		
			6	₹ 39,53,793/- ₹ 79,080/-		
			7	₹ 48,88,691/- ₹ 97,780/-		
2	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/3085/2024-25 Date: 12.11.2024	1	₹ 52,20,885/- ₹ 1,04,500/-	02.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm	04.12.2024 after 5:00 pm
			2	₹ 63,09,481/- ₹ 1,26,200/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/3087/2024-25 Date: 12.11.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	1	₹ 76,20,587/- ₹ 76,210/-		
			2	₹ 66,29,095/- ₹ 66,300/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/3089/2024-25 Date: 12.11.2024	1	₹ 52,43,883/- ₹ 1,04,900/-		
			2	₹ 68,99,211/- ₹ 1,38,000/-		
			3	₹ 50,87,675/- ₹ 1,01,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-2)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/MIA/3254/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	(South-East)-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (2nd Call)	Rs.56,19,008/- Rs.1,12,400/-	03.12.2024 upto 5.00 pm	04.12.2024 after 5.30 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.38,15,601/- Rs.38,200/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.48,03,156/- Rs.48,050/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.69,27,351/- Rs.69,300/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.63,49,647/- Rs.63,500/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.90,20,751/- Rs.90,250/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.38,13,773/- Rs.38,200/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.79,41,876/- Rs.79,450/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.99,46,576/- Rs.99,500/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024	Rs.38,23,896/- Rs.76,500/-		
11		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024	Rs.77,05,933/- Rs.1,54,150/-		
12		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2202/ 2024-25 Date: 13.11.2024	Rs.77,06,913/- Rs.1,54,150/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

13	(WWM-STP) CV	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)CV/ PB/372/ 2024-25 Date: 14.11.2024	Rs.11,69,391/- Rs.29,235/-	04.12.2024 upto 4.00 pm	06.12.2024 after 11.00 am
14		BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)CV/ PB/373/ 2024-25 Date: 14.11.2024	Rs.16,00,000/- Rs.40,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP)CV

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/3259/AKAR/2024-25

Twin negligence

The Jhansi hospital tragedy is a result of neglecting fire safety and health care

The fire in the neonatal intensive care unit of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh, where 10 newborns died on November 15 night, underscores the fatal intersection of severely neglected sectors in government budgeting and planning – health care and fire safety. There was an eerily similar incident in May this year, in a hospital in east Delhi. The neonatal care unit in Jhansi was operating at almost three times its capacity – there were 49 babies for incubators meant only for 18. Hospital staff have said that this number sometimes goes up to 60. This must not surprise given that in 2021, the doctor-patient ratio in U.P. was 1: 2,158. A point to be noted is that India's doctor-patient ratio for 2024 is 1:836, which is well within the World Health Organisation recommendation of 1:1,000.

Established in 1968, the Jhansi hospital is the main health-care facility serving Bundelkhand, an impoverished region of about 10 districts straddling U.P. and Madhya Pradesh. Despite a patient flow of over 5,000 a day, several wings of the hospital have remained in a dilapidated state. While multi-level investigations have been announced by U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government, initial reports suggest an electric short-circuit could be the cause, exacerbated by oxygen cylinders in the care unit. According to National Crime Records Bureau data, 101 people died in 106 incidents of electrical short circuit-induced fires in U.P. in 2022, ranking it the fourth highest in fatalities after Odisha, Maharashtra and Bihar. In an editorial this year, "Insidious, incendiary", this daily highlighted the chronic disregard for India's fire safety norms: "Fire services are not well organized in India", it said, adding that "In recent years the requirements for fire safety cover have increased manifold whereas the development of fire service has not made much headway". In the Union Budgets of FY2022 and FY2023, there was an allocation of a mere 2.2% to health care, which declined to 1.75% this year. This is severely inadequate even when compared with spend by India's peers among developing countries such as Brazil and South Africa. India's public health expenditure was 3.3% of GDP in 2021. This is lower than the global average for developing countries, where public health spending often ranges between 2% to 5% of GDP. Brazil and South Africa typically allocate approximately 10% and 8% of their GDP to public health. It may, therefore, be safe to wager that even while investigations are underway, a broader indifferent approach to both public health and fire safety together led to the tragedy in Jhansi.

This time for Africa

India must take forward its commitment to Africa, the Global South

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Nigeria, and his ongoing tours to Brazil, for the G-20, and Guyana, are important not only for ties with each of these countries but also significant as a statement on India's commitment to the Global South. In the Abuja visit, the first after then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's 2007 visit, where the two countries declared a Strategic Partnership, Mr. Modi and Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu reaffirmed ties in areas including defence cooperation. Mr. Modi identified terrorism, separatism, piracy and drug trafficking as challenges for the two countries to work together on. Receiving Nigeria's 'the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger', Mr. Modi, the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction, dedicated the award to the people of India and to the 'long-standing, historical friendship between India and Nigeria'. India was among the countries that sent teachers and doctors to Nigeria after its independence from Britain in 1960. The Indian community is over 60,000-strong – India's largest diaspora in West Africa, and a bridge builder. The two countries have strong economic ties in a region where India has often been faulted for not doing more: about 200 Indian companies have invested about $27 billion, in pharma, health care, agriculture and energy, where both countries share low-cost technologies and experiences as they tackle similar chronic issues of poverty, pollution and population density. Nigeria is among the top African economies in GDP. It is now a BRICS partner country. The conversations will continue, as both leaders travelled to Rio De Janeiro for the G-20 in Brazil, and where the African Union was inducted as a G-20 member in 2023.

While India's voluble commitment to the Global South and South-South cooperation has been appreciated, particularly in Africa, it also has been seen as short on follow-through at times. Its leadership of the third iteration of "Voice of the Global South" (VoGS) conference this year has seen lack-lustre participation. India's plans to use the platform to feed into the G-20 processes may find more engagement if it allows the G-20 host each year to take over the hosting of the VoGS summit. The India-Africa Forum summit, last held in 2015, is also overdue, and it is hoped that New Delhi moves, as the Foreign Secretary promised at a briefing on Mr. Modi's visit, to hold it early next year. As India shores up ties across the Southern hemisphere, and builds common cause with countries that are important when it comes to the debate over global governance, food, energy and health security, it must be seen to match its ideals with nimble footwork and a decided presence across the developing world, as is evidenced by the Prime Minister's travels this week.

Manipur as a case for imposing Article 356

Dushyant Dave

Senior Advocate and a former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of India

The state of Manipur reflects a classic case of the failure of the constitutional machinery, necessitating invocation of Article 356 by the President of India. The President need not wait for the report from the Governor because, under this Article, the President can act if, "otherwise", satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In Manipur, the unprecedented and horrific violence that erupted in May 2023, continues unabated.

B.R. Ambedkar, defining this extraordinary provision to the Constituent Assembly, on August 3, 1949 said, "I think I can well begin by reminding the House that it has been agreed by the House, where we were considering the general principles of the Constitution, that the Constitution should provide some machinery for the breakdown of the Constitution...." He further said, "I think as a necessary consequence to the introduction of article 277-A, we must also give liberty to the President to act even when there is no report by the Governor and when the President has got certain facts within his knowledge on which he thinks, he ought to act in the fulfilment of his duty."

Why Manipur is proving to be different

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has proved that she is conscious and sensitive about her constitutional functions. And she has the power coupled with duty to act as soon as possible. No State in India has seen such continuing violence among the common people. Violence on account of insurgencies did take place in Nagaland and Mizoram a long time ago and terrorism continues unabated in Jammu and Kashmir.

But Manipur is a different situation where the ordinary people are not only becoming victims of violence but are also being forced to indulge in violence to protect themselves.

It is important to refresh the nation with the lively debates on this Article in the Constituent Assembly proceedings of August 3-4, 1949. H.V. Kamath strongly opposed it, calling it as "A constitutional crime to empower the President to interfere", while Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar defended saying, "In the first place, I would explain the reason why the Article has been put in[,] making it the duty of the Union 'to maintain the Constitution'... if there is any unit ... any difficulty with regard to the proper working of the Constitution, it would be the obvious duty of the Union government to intervene and set matters right...."

> It is shocking that the mayhem in the State continues even under the watchful eyes of the ultimate protector of fundamental rights, the top court of the land

K. Santhanam stated, "Now, let us broadly analyse the circumstances in which these Articles can come into operation. There may be a physical breakdown of the Government in the State, as for instance, when there is widespread internal disturbance or external aggression or for some reason or other, law and order cannot be maintained. In that case, it is obvious that there is no provincial authority which can function and the only authority which can function is the Central Government, and in that contingency these articles are not only unobjectionable but absolutely essential and without it the whole thing will be in chaos."

Thakur Das Bhargava said, "May I point out that the situation is one in which the entire machinery has failed, and ordinary people do not enjoy the common liberties? Internal disturbance to peace and tranquillity are all covered by this."

Dr Ambedkar again rose on August 4, 1949 and responded, "...The expression 'failure of machinery' I find has been used in the Government of India Act, 1935. Everybody must be quite familiar therefore with its de facto and de jure meaning..." and that, "...If at all they are brought into operation, I hope the President, who is endowed with these powers, will take proper precautions before actually suspending the administration of the provinces." The Article was thus passed.

Article 355 obliges the Union to assist States to meet such challenges and one can assume that the Union government has indeed done so, though unsuccessfully.

Court's order

The Supreme Court of India in a Public Interest Litigation on May 8, 2023, passed an order merely recorded, "The Solicitor General states that as a consequence of the measures which have been adopted, no violence has been reported in the State during the course of the previous two days and the situation is gradually returning to normalcy." It laid stress on the point of "the need to preserve law and order and, in particular, to provide relief and rehabilitation" and observed that "utmost vigil should be maintained to ensure that there is no recurrence of violence".

The Court recorded assurance from the Union, "The Solicitor General has assured the Court that the concerns which have been placed on the record in the petition and in the additional affidavits which have been filed in the proceedings, shall be duly taken note of and such remedial steps as are required would be adopted on a proactive basis." But in July 2023 the Court, *suo motu*, took notice of the incident of May 4 where women were paraded naked by a mob. It observed, "The Court is deeply disturbed by the visuals which have appeared in the media since yesterday depicting the perpetration of sexual assault and violence on women in Manipur. What is portrayed in the media would indicate gross constitutional violations and infractions of human rights. Using women as instruments for perpetrating violence is simply unacceptable in a constitutional democracy.

"This Court must be apprised of the steps which have been and shall be taken by the government to (i) hold the perpetrators accountable; and (ii) ensure that such incidents are not repeated."

Violence unabated

Between May 3 and November 11, 2024, more than 250 people have been killed and over a lakh of people displaced from their homes in the ethnic violence. Hundreds of temples, churches, homes and other places have been destroyed. Even on November 9, a mother of three was raped and killed and 17 houses set on fire.

Clearly, the Supreme Court's intervention was slow and ineffective despite there having been 27 hearings. It is shocking that under the watchful eyes of the ultimate protector of fundamental rights, the mayhem continues, depriving the three million people of Manipur of fundamental rights and their lives, liberty, dignity, and peace. Why have the top judges who were on the Bench been silent spectators? Does this not show that the Supreme Court is becoming weaker in recent years?

Sectarian violence in Manipur is a matter of concern for India. It is surprising and shocking that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not able to stop the carnage. Whatever may be its compulsions, it should have acted decisively a long time ago. The Prime Minister should have acted decisively to bring back peace, harmony, justice, relief and rehabilitation.

The situation demands the immediate intervention of the President. It is true that Article 356 has been more abused than used. But today, its invocation will be lauded nationally.

No 'X factor' — reconciling freedom and accountability

A.S. Panneerselvan

a Fellow at Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai

It is important to understand that the freedom of speech is not a laissez-faire act where anything goes, but a democratically enabling idea that shuns censorship and the curbing of ideas being debated in the public sphere. Recently, the British media outlet, *The Guardian*, took a decision to stop posting on the social media platform X(formerly Twitter), from its official handles.

The British legacy media organisation issued a statement that needs to be read carefully. It read: "This is something we have been considering for a while given the often-disturbing content promoted or found on the platform, including far-right conspiracy theories and racism. The U.S. presidential election campaign served only to underline what we have considered for a long time: that X is a toxic media platform and that its owner, Elon Musk, has been able to use its influence to shape political discourse."

Not the first case

It is pertinent to remember that *The Guardian* is not the first major news organisation to leave the social media platform. In the United States, the NPR became the first major English-language news outlet to leave X in April 2023, in protest at Musk's ownership. Another public broadcaster PBS followed suit. A report in the Nieman Lab, based on an internal memo of the NPR, revealed that traffic had dropped by only a single percentage point as a result of leaving X. In September 2023, Mashable carried a report that explained how X is losing its daily active users under the leadership of Mr. Musk.

Why should we look at this development closely and unpack the arguments put forth by Mr. Musk? First, it is not just some of the legacy media organisations such as NPR, PBS and *The Guardian* that have left the social media platform due to its intrinsic toxic content. Hate speech watchdog, The Center for Countering Digital Hate, (CCDH), quit the platform citing concerns that "upcoming changes to the platform's terms of service could hinder the nonprofit's ability to prevail in court battles". Under the new terms, all legal disputes related to X will be brought exclusively in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas or state courts in Tarrant County, Texas. The CCDH's statement reveals the looming danger: "Now, the billionaire will be able to bring lawsuits to friendly courts against whoever disagrees with him on his platform. We made the decision to leave X because the platform has declined further."

> The Guardian's decision to step away from X may be a first step towards restoring accountability in the public sphere

These developments are happening when legacy media is under severe financial strain and social media platforms are witnessing an enviable technology-enabled reach. Research shows how social media algorithms and fake news are connected. They are fuelled by the new partisan owners of these platforms. These platforms cite freedom of speech to perpetuate hate, disinformation, misinformation and chaos. Most of the retweets of Mr. Musk prioritise free speech over truth and social responsibility. The idea of reconciling freedom and responsibility is absent in his narrative.

Democracy and credible information

There is an organic relationship between a vibrant democracy and a credible information ecology. This writer has written extensively elsewhere on the role played by the media in helping people make informed choices. The idea of choosing something based on evidence is central to legacy media; and the idea of pushing someone's whims and fancies through technological manipulations is the operative element of social media platforms. When we are talking about the pitfalls of the algorithm-driven social media, we are not whitewashing the failures of legacy media. The blinkers in the legacy media are manifold: the echo chamber, the revenue crunch, the shift from extensive reporting to focus on opinions, and its strategic silences on key issues. The strategic silences vary for different countries: it can be Gaza for the western media and the dilution of Article 370 for the Indian media. But social media platforms do not provide an answer to these vexatious questions. On the other hand they tend to conflate issues, eradicate the space for reconciliation and healing, and valorise the aggrandisement of power at the cost of empowerment. It is indeed true that legacy media does get influenced by the immense reach of social media.

Findings of a study

A study by Julia Cagé, Professor, Department of Economics, Sciences Po, Paris, and her team showed how X sets the agenda for the mainstream media and how journalists' reliance on X might distort the information they produce when compared to what citizens actually need. This study casts doubts on the business model of the legacy media as well as on the welfare effects of the platforms. It questioned whether citizens would be better informed in the absence of X, and whether social media may be harmful to both journalism and democracy. By weaponising social media as a vital symbol of freedom of speech, we are undermining a crucial aspect that governs our public sphere – accountability. *The Guardian*'s decision may be a first step towards restoring accountability.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The state of Manipur

Ever since May 2023, Manipur has been burning. The State government has been unable to gain control perhaps due to the complex issues involved. It is surprising that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has still not visited the State. Meanwhile, the Union government should do everything within its power to defuse the situation. Confidence-building measures among the affected people should be carried out.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

In the many months since Manipur has been roiled by ethnic conflict, the State government's actions have been restricted to 'empty rhetoric, blaming outsiders, imposing Internet bans and issuing vague promises of dialogue'. The Centre's moves to bring the warring communities to the negotiating table too have not inspired confidence. It must be noted that ethnic identities have always played an important role in the socioeconomic life of Manipur. The Centre's blinkered outlook could also compound the difficulties of the armed forces in the Northeast, at a time when neighbouring Myanmar and Bangladesh are embroiled in turmoil.

Yash Pal Ralhan,
Jalandhar, Punjab

The violence in Manipur has reached alarming levels. This escalating situation not only threatens the safety of local communities but also deepens ethnic divides, which requires sensitive and immediate attention.

It is imperative that the State and Centre work towards a peaceful resolution.

Nidhi Chandru,
Bengaluru

The American pulse

The feeling of horror that many thoughtful people in this world are currently experiencing on Donald Trump's reelection cannot be described in any language. The phenomenon that is currently labelled as a "red shift" is nothing but a grotesque form of toxic white supremacy. Having lived in the U.S. for nearly three decades, from the advent of Reaganism to the disappointment of Obamaism, I can assert with confidence that some form of "white supremacy" was a permanent staple of the American political scene, especially during elections. These utterances were encapsulated in carefully coded language to clothe it with the garb of respectability. With the arrival of Donald Trump, there has been a sea change in the American psyche and "white supremacy" has emerged in its new venomous reincarnation. The primary reason behind such a change could also be the universal spread of hate speech and outright misinformation with the help of social media. If one were to adopt a larger historical perspective, then Herman Melville's novel, *The Confidence-Man*, is the apt frame of reference.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

Toxic serials

Malayalam TV serials have become a breeding ground for toxic narratives that mislead and manipulate the emotions of viewers. These serials often glorify infidelity, unrealistic family drama, and encourage selfish, irresponsible behaviour, far removed from the values that promote healthy relationships and societal harmony. It is high time there is more stringent censorship, ensuring that television, a powerful medium, fosters constructive, ethical values rather than sowing discord and disillusionment. I endorse the observation of P. Sathidevi, Chairperson of the Kerala Women's Commission, in this regard.

K.A. Solaman,
Alappuzha, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

"The river Godavari has the longest rail-cum-road bridge", and not "bride", as mentioned in the heading (Opinion page, November 18, 2024, 'From The Archives, Fifty Years Ago – November 18, 1974').

End logjam for EPFO pensioners

T. Ramakrishnan

A recent official announcement about the successful pilot run of the new Centralised Pension Payments System (CPPS) under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, comes at a time when lakhs of members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and pensioners have been waiting to hear about their applications for pension on higher wages.

Some questions remain

The launch of the CPPS is undoubtedly a relief to new pensioners. They will not be required to open an account in specified banks just to receive their monthly entitlement. Under the new system that will come into force from January 1 across the country, pensioners can collect their pension from any bank branch in India. Also, they are no longer required to go to the bank for verification at the time of commencement of pension.

However, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment and the EPFO have been silent on more substantive matters. These include processing applications for pension on higher wages quickly, increasing the minimum pension amount of ₹1,000 and the wage ceiling of ₹15,000 under the EPF, and restoring the universal applicability of EPS to all PF members, regardless of their pay. Both the minimum pension and the current wage ceiling came into effect on September 1, 2014. There have been demands from employees' representatives and trade unions for revising the minimum pension to ₹9,000 and the wage ceiling to ₹40,000.

Even two years after the Supreme Court approved the principle of payment of pension on higher wages (on wages that exceeded the PF ceiling), the progress made in processing the applications has been slow. About 1.3 million net applications were pending with the authorities for clearance as on August 7, according to an EPFO reply given under the Right to Information Act. The authorities had issued pension payment orders to about 8,400 applicants, approving the payment of pension on higher wages. They also issued demand notices to about 89,000 persons, which required them to transfer their share of the difference. This was because the pensionable salary of the applicants was higher than the wage ceiling and the contributions by their employers to the Pension Fund would have been limited only to the extent of the wage ceiling.

Amid modest progress, there are issues including the calculation of higher pension following a pro rata basis and the imposition of next-to-impossible conditions for pre-September 2014 retirees to be considered for higher pension. This is only one aspect of the story.

The EPFO expects applicants and their employers to submit very old documents – for example, pay slips issued to employees 25 years ago – which are not available in many cases. Invariably, the applicants, whether they are in service or not, are aware that they will have to give their consent for transfer of a certain portion of their savings to the EPFO before they start receiving their enhanced pension. This needs to be done because the employers' contribution to the pension corpus for their employees has been limited by the wage ceiling. The PF body should trust in the undertaking of the employers regarding their former and present employees.

The Centre and the EPFO should be guided by a problem-solving approach

No cash flow problems

The traditional position of the establishment, reinforced by the 2019 valuation of the pension fund, has been that the fund, a pooled one with the provision for withdrawal benefits or pension, depending on the eligibility of members, is in deficit. The EPFO is said to be carrying out actuarial valuations for every batch of 50,000 demand letters issued. An evaluation of sample data of 38,000 applicants showed a deficit of around ₹ 9,500 crore (about ₹25 lakh per person). According to the establishment, such a situation will eventually erode the sustainability of the pension fund and jeopardise social security coverage of lower pension earners.

However, the EPFO's annual report for 2022-23 pointed out that the fund had not witnessed any cash flow problems in the last five years. Also, the data for the period revealed that despite the pandemic, there was a steady rise in annual contributions to the fund as well as the corpus, which is made up of contribution by employers at 8.33% of wages and from the Centre through budgetary support at 1.16% of wages up to ₹15,000 per month. In fact, in the three years ending March 2023, the increase in annual contributions was about ₹13,000 crore and the corpus rose by nearly ₹2.5 lakh crore. The draft annual report for 2023-24, discussed by the Executive Committee of the EPFO's Central Board on November 8, also referred to the growth in the number of contributing establishments and members in the range of 6.6%-7.6%.

It is time that the Union government and the EPFO looked beyond actuarial deficit. They could consider recommendations by experts that the government could set apart, as a one-time measure, a hefty amount to reinforce the sustainability of the Pension Fund or increase the existing quantum (12%) of contributions by employers and employees to the PF. In case the government and the EPFO believe that there are genuine difficulties in providing higher pension to all the eligible applicants in the next six months or so, they should explain their position publicly and convey what is feasible. Importantly, the Centre and the EPFO should be guided by a problem-solving approach.

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A sign of policy paralysis

Bank transfers before elections are nothing but the distribution of cash for votes

STATE OF PLAY

Mrudul Nile

Politics in Maharashtra is at a crossroads where the reformist agenda of electoral politics has been taken over by monetary manipulations through the state apparatus. Though monetary considerations for votes are not new in politics, they were not structurally embedded in the state policy. Distribution of cash was a purely political phenomenon. The freebie culture routed through the state has diluted the policy process.

In earlier decades, when caste issues predominantly dominated electoral politics, certain political parties even criticised reservations – a policy of affirmative action – as a freebie. Distribution of freebies was considered as an important strategy of the underdeveloped States in the country. Colour TV sets, laptops, mixers, etc. were distributed in exchange for the allegiance of voters towards a political party. Maharashtra, on the other hand, pioneered schemes such as the Employment Guarantee Scheme in 1972, which offered wages for work; this was subsequently adopted by the Central government as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Cash for votes?

However, since then, there has been a change, which is a sign of limited understanding of economic issues and is usually observed in a state of policy paralysis. This change could be attributed to the inability of rational policy design by the political class.

In the backdrop of the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, the ruling Mahayuti coalition announced the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana. Women who are residents of Maharashtra, aged 21 to 65 years, and have an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh are eligible for this scheme. The Opposition, Maha Vikas Aghadi, could not counter it, so they announced a similar scheme in their manifesto.

If politicians are unable to generate employment, it is essentially a matter of economic policy. Bank transfers before elections are nothing but the distribution of cash for votes. This is not a policy solution to the problems of unemployment and poverty, nor is it compensation.

Traditionally, politicians would build a constituency by continuously engaging with the people. Most issues, including civic issues, were resolved with the intervention of people's representatives. This is no longer the case. Today, larger constituencies are built using social media and post-truth narratives. In modern-day politics, a constituency is not confined to a geographical space with a proportional population; it is a demographic imagination of an entire subset of a population, such as the youth or women. While earlier studies show that women were the last to be considered as independent potential voters and it was assumed that most women would vote according to the choice of the family (essentially the male head of the family), this is not the case any longer. Women are important voters and are being wooed everywhere. However, these imagined constituencies will be short-lived in the absence of solid rational policies.

Demographic imagination

Under the changing socio-economic conditions, political parties function as agencies for the 'consolidation of demographies' across the population. This is different from 'demographic imagination', for 'demographic imagination' would mean a process of negotiation with potential groups who could vote for a political party. The process of 'demographic imagination' is a highly complex one and could also include changing voters' preferences and orientations. It is a long-term process to build a clientele base of a political party. On the other hand, 'consolidation of demographies' would mean the manifestation of that imagination through interventions such as direct cash transfers or other freebies.

Though the liberal economic thought process may seem to be at work in politics, a day may not be too far when voters will experience progressive deprivation and demand a solid policy aimed at improving their condition. While the youth is known to be more demanding, women too will begin demanding employment rather than accepting a ₹1,500-3000 per month. Gig-politicians then will have to abandon these short-term measures and focus on building their constituencies the good old way.

Mrudul Nile is Professor, Department Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai

Divisive slogan may unite minority voters in Mumbai-Thane

In 31 Assembly segments with a sizeable Muslim presence, 24 were led by the Maha Vikas Aghadi in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's controversial slogan, "*Batenge toh katenge, ek rahenge toh safe rahenge* (Divided we perish, united we stay safe)", used during his campaign in Maharashtra, has sparked tension within the Mahayuti alliance, with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Ajit Pawar opposing it. The slogan also contradicts the Shiv Sena's recent efforts to gain Muslim votes, which, as per the 2024 general elections data, largely favour the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently altered the slogan to "*Ek hai to safe hai* (unity brings safety)".

The controversy over the slogan and the opposition to it within the Mahayuti is understandable given that in 10% of Maharashtra's constituencies (31 seats), Muslims make up more than 20% of the people on electoral rolls and therefore have the potential to influence the outcome in those seats.

These seats are primarily concentrated in the relatively affluent and urban areas of the Mumbai-Thane region. **Table 1A** reveals that most of these 31 seats are located in Mumbai Suburban (10), Mumbai City (four), and Thane districts (three). Collectively, the Mumbai-Thane region accounts for 17 of these seats, followed by the Marathwada region with six **(Table 1B)**. Notably, 19 of these seats are in urban areas, nine are in semi-urban areas, and only a few are in rural regions **(Table 1C)**.

In the Mumbai-Thane region, the Mahayuti alliance led in only 35 segments in the 2024 general elections, down from the 44 seats that the BJP and the undivided Shiv Sena coalition secured in the 2019 Assembly elections. In contrast, the MVA alliance led in 24 seats in the 2024 general elections, three times more than the eight seats won by the Congress-NCP coalition in the 2019 Assembly elections, as shown in the Data Point on Monday. The Mahayuti alliance aims to reverse this decline in the upcoming polls, and the slogan could negatively influence its efforts to regain this lost ground.

In the upcoming Assembly polls **(Table 2),** the NCP and the Shiv Sena have been allocated 17 of these 31 seats, with the BJP fielding candidates in 14 of them. In the MVA, the Congress has fielded candidates in 18 of them, the Shiv Sena (UBT) in 10, the NCP (SP) in two and the rest have gone to smaller partners. In seven seats, multiple partners from the MVA alliance have put up candidates. Notably, 15 of the MVA's candidates in these seats are Muslims (friendly fights), as opposed to only five in the Mahayuti alliance **(Table 3)**.

When we restrict past electoral comparisons strictly to these 31 seats, there is a drastic decline in the Mahayuti's numbers. **Table 4A, 4B and 4C** show the seats secured/led in the 2014 and 2019 Assembly polls and the 2024 general elections. In 2014, when all the parties fought independently, the BJP secured 12 of these seats. The undivided Shiv Sena got eight and the Congress, seven. In 2019, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance secured 16 of these seats, with the Congress-NCP getting 13. In the 2024 general elections, the roles reversed: the MVA led in as many as 24 Assembly segments and the Mahayuti was reduced to just five.

The dark horse in these 31 seats is the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), which has fielded candidates in 13 constituencies and remains unaffiliated with either coalition. The party not only won/led in two of these seats during the 2014 and 2019 Assembly elections and the 2024 general elections each but also secured significant vote shares in other constituencies where it lost. This has positioned AIMIM as a potential vote spoiler **(Table 5).**

Tipping the scales

Data were sourced from the Data Development Lab and LokDhaba. Religous classifications are from Raphael Susewind

Table 1A: District-wise number of seats with more than 20% Muslim population

District	Seats
Mumbai Suburban	10
Mumbai City	4
Aurangabad	3
Thane	3
Nanded	2
Akola, Amravati, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nagpur, Nashik, Parbhani, Pune, Solapur	1 each

Table 1B: Region-wise number of seats with more than 20% Muslim population

Region	Seats
Mumbai-Thane	17
Marathwada	6
North Maharashtra	3
Vidarbha	3
Western Maharashtra	2

Table 1C: Urban-rural split of constituencies with more than 20% Muslim population

Urban Rural	Seats
Urban	19
Semi Urban	9
Rural	2
Semi Rural	1

Table 2: The table shows the seat allocations among parties/alliances for the upcoming polls

Party/Alliance	Seats
MVA	
INC	18
SS(UBT)	10
SP	7
NCP(SP)	2
PWP	1
CPI(M)	1
*Friendly fights**	7
Mahayuti	
BJP	14
SHS	12
NCP	5
*Friendly fights *	1
Others	
AIMIM	13

Table 3: Number of Muslim candidates contesting in the 31 seats

Party	2024 AE
MVA	15
Mahayuti	5

Seats with high Muslim population were identified based on estimations by Raphael Susewind using 2014 electoral rolls data. For this analysis, only seats with over 20% Muslim population were considered

Table 4A: Seats secured by parties in the **2014 Assembly Elections** among the 31 constituencies

Party	2014 AE
BJP	12
SHS	8
INC	7
AIMIM	2
NCP	1
SP	1

Table 4B: Seats secured by parties/alliances in the **2019 Assembly polls** among the 31 seats

Party	2019 AE
BJP+SHS	16
INC+NCP	13
AIMIM	2

Table 4C: Seats secured by alliances/parties in the **2024 GE** among the 31 constituencies

Party	2024 GE
MVA	24
Mahayuti	5
AIMIM	2

Table 5: Vote share secured by All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in the 31 constituencies in 2014 AE, 2019 AE and 2024 GE

AIMIM's seats	2014 AE	2019 AE	2024 GE
Malegaon Central	12.6%	-	-
Bhiwandi West	3.8%	31.7%	0.1%
Byculla	20.3%	25.0%	-
Mumbra-Kalwa	10.1%	-	-
Aurangabad East	34.4%	41.0%	43.1%
Versova	17.2%	-	-
Aurangabad Central	32.8%	35.1%	40.8%
Kurla	19.2%	14.1%	0.1%
Solapur City Central	22.8%	23.0%	-
Parbhani	22.8%	11.8%	-
Nanded South	-	11.0%	-
Dhule City	2.4%	28.9%	-

**The seats in which candidates from multiple partners of the same alliance were fielded*

With inputs from Nitika Francis, Padma Sowndarya V

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 19, 1974

Sri Lanka criticises India's stand on nuclear-free zone

United Nations, Nov. 19: With the debate in the U.N. Political Committee on a nuclear free zone for South Asia heading for a vote, Sri Lanka announced, in a seemingly even handed policy between India and Pakistan, that it would vote for both the resolutions sponsored by the two countries.

In his speech, however, the Sri Lanka Ambassador, Mr. H.S. Amerasinghe, was sharply critical of the Indian resolution and stand on the issue. "We are not fully impressed with the Indian argument that there should have been prior consultations as the General Assembly has endorsed the principle of the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zone in other regions of the world," he said.

He was of the view that there could be no serious objection to the endorsement of the principle of a zone for South Asia. He said that the proposal for a South Asia zone had a vital bearing on the declaration of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and to his mind it was a logical concept.

The Sri Lanka Ambassador's speech came as a surprise because on an earlier occasion he had defended the right of a developing country to adopt all technologies including nuclear explosion technology for achieving a breakthrough in development.

In a rejoinder, the Indian delegate, Mr. B.C. Mishra, pointed out that a reference to the Assembly records would show that no action would be taken by the Assembly on nuclear zones without agreement of the States concerned. It was in this background that India had urged mutual consultations and agreement among the States concerned.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 19, 1924

Govt. school of Indian medicine

The Government School of Indian Medicine is to be opened in "Thambu Villa", Pantheon Road, Egmore, by His Excellency the Governor, on Monday, the 24th instant at 5:15 p.m. The building will, it is understood, serve the present needs but will not be adequate after a year when an Ayurvedic Hospital will have to be opened in connection with the school to furnish clinical materials for teaching students.

From Page One

5,000 troops of Central forces for Manipur

The bodies of other five members, including an eight-month-old boy and a two-year-old boy, were recovered between November 14 and 17 and a post-mortem was conducted at Silchar Medical College in Assam on Monday. At least 22 people had been killed in the State in a fresh round of violence since November 7.

Three cases of violent crimes against women and children that have been reported in the State since November 7 have been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for probe.

The cases include the killing of a Hmar woman in Jiribam, the abduction and killing of three women and three children by armed militants on November 11 during an encounter with security forces in Jiribam, and the killing of a woman farmer in Bishnupur on November 9.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh chaired a meeting with the NDA legislators in Imphal. Of the 45 NDA MLAs, 18 skipped the meeting. Six skipped on medical grounds and one intimated his inability to attend, but another 11 did not give a reason. Out of seven MLAs of the National People's Party, four attended the meeting. A day before the meeting, NPP chief Conrad Sangma had written to BJP chief J.P. Nadda, saying his party had decided to "withdraw support... with immediate effect".

A resolution passed by the meeting said that "mass operations against the Kuki militants" responsible for the killing of the six women and children in Jiribam should start within seven days, and reiterated the State Cabinet's November 15 decision to request the Centre to withdraw the AFSPA reimposed in the limits of six police stations.

"If the above resolutions taken are not implemented within the specified period, all the NDA legislators will decide the future course of action in consultation with the people of the State," the resolution read. The legislators condemned the action of certain persons who humiliated the Ministers and MLAs, representing the public, by attacking them and burning and stealing their properties.

Earlier in the day, NPF leader and Water Resources Minister Awangbou Newmai reaffirmed his party's support to the government. This laid to rest speculation that other allies would follow the National People's Party in withdrawing support to the BJP-led government.

The day saw members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, an influential Meitei group which announced a civil disobedience movement on Friday, defying the curfew to shut down some government offices, including GST Bhavan and the Election Department. The Imphal Valley was relatively calm after two days of outrage over the reported killing of six people.

As Delhi chokes, SC orders all curbs to stay

The court directed all State governments which have areas within the National Capital Region (NCR) to strictly implement GRAP-IV. These States have to immediately constitute monitoring committees to ensure the strict implementation of GRAP-IV.

The court ordered the CAQM to examine if any further stringent actions could be implemented under GRAP Stages -III and -IV to bring down the toxicity in the air.

The court asked the CAQM to take an immediate call on GRAP-IV restrictions., including that offices in the National Capital Region (NCR) work at 50% capacity, with the rest working from home; work from home options for Central government employees; schools shifting to the online mode of teaching etc.

Uttar Pradesh Additional Advocate General Garima Parshad claimed that the State had closed all schools and there was no construction work going on. "There are parents in this courtroom whose children went to school this morning... This claim would be alarming for them," said advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for a petitioner.

Finance Minister allays growth dip worries

"Record e-way bill generation, buoyant trends in rural demand and strong PMI data for manufacturing and services underscore the steady pace of economic activity," Ms. Sitharaman said.

She also pointed to healthy growth in foreign direct investment inflows this year and foreign exchange reserves that "comfortably cover 11.8 months of imports and exceed 100% of external debt, underlining the strong net buffer in the Indian economy".

"So let me assure you all that the government is closely monitoring an evolving situation. We remain committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that India remains fully and firmly on course to become the third-largest economy in the world," she said.

While noting that stress on the inflation front is coming from three perishables – tomato, onion, and potato – Ms. Sitharaman said she did not want to wade into the debate on whether these should be excluded from the retail inflation measure. "We, as a government, are making a lot of efforts towards scientific and more rigorous storage facility for perishable commodities. So till you really get on the top of that issue, you will periodically have this problem causing immense stress in a cyclical fashion," she noted.

SC Collegium proposes new Chief Justice for Manipur

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday, in its first resolution after Justice Sanjiv Khanna took over as Chief Justice of India on November 11, recommended the appointment of Madras High Court judge Justice D. Krishnakumar as the Manipur High Court Chief Justice.

The incumbent, Justice Siddharth Mridul, retires on November 21. If the government approves the Collegium's recommendation, Justice Krishnakumar would take over on the retirement of Justice Mridul.

Justice Krishnakumar is due to retire on May 21, 2025. He belongs to a Backward Community.

As a lawyer, Justice Krishnakumar had extensive practice in Civil, Constitutional and Service matters in the High Court, with specialisation in Constitutional law.

"He is a competent judge with a sound legal acumen. He is endowed with a high level of integrity and honesty," the Collegium said.

Cong. seeks resignation of Shah over Manipur unrest

The Opposition party urges PM to visit the State, says the Centre has failed to resolve the crisis; it says a full-time Governor should be appointed at the earliest and Biren Singh must resign as CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid the escalation of violence in Manipur over the past few weeks, the Congress on Monday demanded Union Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation over the Centre's "failure" to resolve the division between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities that has claimed more than 240 lives since May 2023.

The principal Opposition party urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Manipur and address an all-party delegation from the State. The Congress also underlined the absence of a full-time Governor in the State. In July, Anusuiya Uikey was shifted out of Manipur, and Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya was given additional charge of the State.

The grand old party also set a deadline of November 25, when the Winter Session of Parliament begins, for the Union government to take these steps.

Raising concern: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh addressing the presser at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters in Delhi, party general secretary incharge of communications Jairam Ramesh, along with Manipur Congress chief K. Meghachandra Singh and AICC in-charge of State Girish Chodankar, also demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

"From May 3, 2023, Manipur is burning and Prime Minister Modi visits various countries of the world, gives sermons, but could not find time to visit Manipur. So, our first demand is that the PM should take time out before the Parliament session to visit Manipur and meet political parties, politicians, civil society groups, and people in relief camps there," Mr. Ramesh said.

'Manipur outsourced'

He said the Congress also demanded that the PM meet an all-party delegation from Manipur and then also call an all-party meeting at the national level. The party said the PM had "outsourced" Manipur to the Home Minister.

"There is a strange *jugalbandi* between the Home Minister and the failed CM. Why has the Home Minister not taken cognisance of the CM's failures and why has he been attempting to save him? The only achievement of Home Minister in the last 18 months is saving the Chief Minister," the Congress general secretary said.

Manipur Congress chief K. Meghachandra Singh said there was an unprecedented turmoil and "complete anarchy" prevailing under the "double engine government".

Mr. Chodankar pointed out that the violence had also pushed up inflation rate, which is currently at 10%. With schools shut for a long time and a high rate of job loss, these 18 months of violence had affected everyone in the State, he said.

If leadership is changed, may support BJP in Manipur: NPP

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Monday said his National People's Party might support the Bharatiya Janata Party in Manipur again if a change in leadership in the ethnic conflict-scarred State led to an environment of peace.

On Sunday, the NPP withdrew support to the Nongthombam Biren Singh-led BJP government over its "complete failure" in resolving the crisis and restoring normalcy in the State. The NPP has seven MLAs in the 60-member House.

"We have made it clear that our withdrawal of support was specific to him, the individual (Mr. Singh). If we see a change in leadership and a positive step forward to resolve the conflict, we can constructively cooperate and contribute to ensuring that peace and normalcy return in Manipur," the Meghalaya CM said.

He said the Manipur decision would not strain the NPP's ties with the BJP.

Rajoana plea: SC calls for decision, Centre seeks adjournment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court directed the President's office on Monday to push for a decision on death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana's mercy plea in the Beant Singh assassination case in two weeks, but the Union government, which was absent during the hearing, suddenly moved in and sought retraction of the order.

To start with, the three-judge Special Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, P.K. Mishra and K.V. Viswanathan directed the Secretary to the President of India to place Rajoana's mercy plea before the President with a request to take a call in a fortnight. The Bench recorded in its order that if no decision of the President was forthcoming, the Supreme Court would consider Rajoana's plea for interim relief. The Special Bench listed the case on December 5.

However, shortly after the Special Bench hearing was over and the Regular Bench of Justices Gavai and Viswanathan returned to hear the daily board of cases, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta rushed into the courtroom. He regretted the absence of Union government counsel during the Special Bench hearing. He urged Justice Gavai to retract the order, to simply adjourn the Rajoana case and post the case in a day or two.

Justice Gavai responded that the court had only asked the President's Secretary to place the matter before the President.

He eventually told Mr. Mehta to speak to senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for Rajoana in the morning.

Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor is operational: Sonowal

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Chennai-Vladivostok eastern maritime corridor has become operational and is carrying oil, food, and machines, Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said on Monday.

He said India and Greece would work together on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) announced last year. India aims to be the best maritime nation in the world in all indices, Mr. Sonowal said, outlining a 'maritime vision 2047'.

"Out of the 139 marine nations across the world, we want to be on the top in all the verticals, whether it is port operations, cargo handling, ship ownership, ship building, ship repair, recycling, technology, and legislative reforms," Mr. Sonowal said, speaking to the media on the sidelines of the inaugural edition of 'Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue' thought leadership summit, organised by the Ministry in partnership with Observer Research Foundation. He also held bilateral talks with Christos Stylianides, Greece's Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy.

Sarbananda Sonowal said out of the 139 marine nations across the world, India wants to be on the top in all the verticals. THE HINDU

The two-day dialogue has over 1,700 participants, including over 215 delegates from 60 countries, officials said.

Officials said the Chennai-Vladivostok corridor became operational at the end of last year. The government had stated earlier that the corridor would result in significant reduction in the time required to transport cargo between India and Far East Russia – by up to 16 days; from 40 to 24 days; and a significant reduction of the distance by up to 40%.

"The IMEEC that was announced during the G20 summit – it goes from India to UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, then three European countries, Italy, France and Greece. Ultimately this line will also have a railway line, [and] sea route totally over 4,800 km. India and Greece will work together," Mr. Sonowal said in the media interaction. On the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor, he said it had become operational and, along with the port in the Bay of Bengal, Paradip and Vizag also have connectivity. "We are getting crude, food, and machines. We are also sending... It is operating smoothly," he said.

His remarks come in the backdrop of apprehensions on the progress of the IMEEC, given the volatile situation in West Asia in the backdrop of the attacks on Israel, and the continuing offensive in Gaza and Lebanon.

Rahul mocks Modi's slogan, says Maharashtra's battle is between *crorepatis*, poor

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "*ek hain toh safe hain*" (united we are safe) slogan, with posters featuring the map of Dharavi and of Mr. Modi with industrialist Gautam Adani. He was speaking at a press conference in Mumbai on Monday.

Rahul Gandhi

"This is a battle of ideologies. Maharashtra's battle is between two '*crorepatis*' and the poor. A *crorepati* wants ₹1 lakh crore while we think the youth and poor of Maharashtra need help. Inflation, price rise, poverty, unemployment are the issues," he said.

"We want to conduct caste census. This is the biggest issue in the country today. Backward Classes, Dalits and Adivasis are 50% of the population. Yet, they don't have any say in the system. We want to change that. So we don't want even the 50% cap on reservation. Health insurance, unemployment allowance, and 2.5 lakh government jobs opened up for people - these are the things we promise. The target is Adani. The target is to change Mumbai," he said.

As he spoke, he took out two posters from a safe, which was brought there by a few workers. "Mr. Modi gave the slogan '*ek hain toh safe hain*'. This is his safe. But this is what he means," he said, holding up the posters, one showing the map of Dharavi and another showing the industrialist with Mr. Modi, with the '*ek hain toh Safe hain*' slogan underneath.

He thereafter read a list of eight projects, alleging that these businesses were driven away from Maharashtra to Gujarat, robbing the poll-bound State of ₹7 lakh crore worth of investment and 5 lakh jobs for its youth.

The BJP hit back at Mr. Gandhi calling him "fake", and claiming that the industrialist benefited the most during the Congress regime. At a press conference, BJP's Vinod Tawde showed a photo of Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra with Mr. Adani.

Sanjay Murthy appointed new CAG

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday appointed a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, K. Sanjay Murthy, the new Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

The appointment came two days before incumbent Girish Chandra Murmu's tenure ends. Mr. Murmu was appointed the CAG in August 2020.

Mr. Murthy is currently posted as Secretary, Department of Higher Education, and his tenure was to end on December 31.

RRVUNL questions report on Parsa coal mine in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. has once again questioned the legitimacy of a report by the Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribes Commission, which found irregularities in environmental clearances for the Parsa coal mine in the Surguja region of Chhattisgarh.

"In 2023, CSSTC, under the same leadership, set aside the matter following a thorough investigation by the district administration of Surguja," RRVUNL said.

The commission said it had found the clearances for the Parsa mine project to have been obtained by using forged documents with respect to the consent of the gram sabha.

To this, RRVUNL said: "The issue of Gram Sabha's approval is pending adjudication, and none of the courts have yet passed any adverse observation on the aspect of alleged irregularity in the permissions."

The coal mine has been allotted to RRVUNL, which has subsequently selected the Adani Group as the mine developer and operator for the project that has long been opposed by activists and a certain section of local people.

In a clarification, RRVUNL questioned the legitimacy of the commission's report, saying that the absence of the Secretary's signature on it made it a "flawed document".

The document was, however, signed by the commission's chairperson, Bhanu Pratap Singh, and two other members, according to *The Hindu*'s report, which had also detailed RRVUNL's doubts on the legitimacy of the documents.

ELECTIONS 2024

Cong. neglected villages during its tenure: BJP

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday accused the Congress of failing to prioritise rural development.

Addressing a rally in Gondia district of Maharashtra, he criticised the Congress for prioritising loss-making ventures over rural development during its tenure. He accused the Congress of neglecting villages while launching "now-failing ventures" such as airlines and steel factories.

Lauding former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's rural road development under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, he said, "Had the Congress invested in roads, irrigation, and schools instead of failed projects, India's villages would have transformed." He attacked the Congress for "fake propaganda" during the polls.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at an election rally in Gondia district on Monday. ANI

Anil Deshmukh hurt after stones thrown at his car

Former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh was injured after stones were thrown at his car on Monday. He was returning from campaigning when his car was attacked, sources close to Mr. Deshmukh told *The Hindu*.

He has been shifted to a hospital in Nagpur.

Some unidentified persons threw stones at his car near Belphata on the Jalalkheda Road near Katol, the police said. Nagpur Rural Superintendent of Police Harssh Poddar confirmed the incident. He said senior officers were rushed to the spot. "An investigation has begun. Police are trying to identify those responsible for the attack," he said.

The Opposition condemned the attack on Mr. Deshmukh.

(With PTI inputs)

> We have not collected donations by playing with the lives of the countrymen through electoral bonds, fake medicines or vaccines
>
> **HEMANT SOREN**
> Jharkhand Chief Minister

Cong., BJP seek time to respond to complaints

The Congress and the BJP have sought seven more days from the Election Commission to respond to poll code violation complaints filed by them against each other in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, sources said on Monday. It had sought responses from the parties by Monday. PTI

> *Vikas* is my caste, *Vikas* is my religion, *Vikas* is my party and my language will also be *Vikas*. I only talk about development and nothing else
>
> **CHHAGAN BHUJBAL**
> NCP leader

Long-pending issue: People of Jogeshwari, Chandivali and Dharavi seats have been demanding affordable and decent homes. PURNIMA SAH

Clean air, better homes among demands in 3 Mumbai seats

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

In three constituencies of Mumbai – Jogeshwari, Chandivali and Dharavi – obstacles around redevelopment, rising health concerns due to air pollution, illegal high-rises coexisting with slums and industrial units, long-pending rehabilitation projects, lack of tribal welfare are the key issues that ruled the poll narrative.

In Jogeshwari, Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Anant [Bala] Nar, who has been a corporator for 10 years and chairman of several BMC committees, is taking on Shiv Sena candidate Manisha Waikar, who is the wife of Ravindra Waikar, MP.

From Chandivali, Congress candidate and four-time MLA Naseem Khan is contesting against Shiv Sena candidate and MLA Dilip Lande. In Dharavi, where the multi-crore Dharavi Redevelopment Project has been in the news, Congress candidate Jyoti Gaikwad, who is also the sister of Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad, is in the fray against the Shiv Sena's Rajesh Khandare.

Ms. Waikar says she would focus on slum rehabilitation projects if voted to power. "It has been a long-pending demand of people to live in affordable and decent homes. MP Ravindra Waikar has taken this concern to New Delhi and demanded affordable homes under the Prime Minister's fund for tribals and slum dwellers."

While leaders of political parties were seen campaigning with pomp and splendour, Independent candidate Vitthal Govind Lad, founder of Kashtakari Shetkari Sanghtana and Shramik Mukti Andolan, walked from locality to locality interacting with people. He is contesting the Jogeshwari seat and speaks of the concerns of the people who have been working with the organisation for years.

"We want to emphasise good quality homes for people underthe SRA project, access to potable water, proper sewage and drainage facilities and proper road in slums and tribal areas. This constituency has two kinds of spaces: one is an urban area where the population is more, but the geographical space is small and then Aarey Milk Colony where the space is bigger, but population is slim. If elected, we will work for the rights of tribal residents of Aarey to protect their land, their habitat and wildlife. We will restart the Aarey Dairy centre that has been shut for years," he says.

Residents' manifesto

In Chandivali, the residents have made their own manifesto. Mandeep Singh Makkar, founder of Chandivali Citizens Welfare Association, says, "The reason we released a manifesto is because we do not have hopes from politicians. There are over thousand residents who worked together to prepare the 20-points manifesto that raises key concerns such as the MLA should respect the public mandate and not switch parties post-elections; action against illegal bhattis and cement plants that are causing health concerns for many; affordable electricity charges... among other important issues."

Residents of Dharavi's Shatabdi Nagar locality wanted to boycott the elections but did not do so due to the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

Shalini Sidharth Kamle, 52, said, "We are not boycotting the election because if we do not vote how else will we change this government? In the last few years, the government has only given us stress in the name of Adani."

High-octane and polarising campaign comes to a conclusion in Maharashtra

While welfare schemes and poll promises dominated the early part of the campaign, rhetoric soon shifted to polarising slogans; Mahayuti is banking on initiatives such as Ladki Bahin, and Modi's image; Opposition MVA has made a slew of promises mostly targeted at women and farmers

Abhinay Deshpande
NAGPUR

The high-octane campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly election concluded on Monday, setting the stage for the polling on Wednesday.

The battle for control of the 288-member Assembly has seen shifting alliances, ideological clashes, intricate caste equations and emotional appeals, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led Mahayuti alliance and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi being the principal contenders. As many as 4,136 candidates are in the race across 36 districts with over 9.7 crore eligible voters.

The ruling alliance comprising the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar, and BJP had run a campaign centred on development and welfare schemes, delivered by a "double-engine sarkar" for the State's "brighter future". On the other hand, the MVA comprising the Congress, Sharad Pawar-led NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray, is banking on a narrative of discontent and need for change.

While welfare schemes, development, and poll promises dominated the early stages of the campaign, the rhetoric shifted to polarising slogans such as "vote jihad", "*Ek hai toh safe hai*" (united we are safe), "*batenge toh katenge*" (divided we fall), and "*dharma yuddha*", overshadowing pressing issues such as unemployment, agrarian distress, and inflation. Such sloganeering sparked concern even from saffron party leaders such as Ashok Chavan and Pankaja Munde, and Mr. Ajit Pawar.

While the rhetoric of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and even Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "Constitution under threat" narrative had an impact in the urban centres, rural voters continued to debate about the impact of GST, rising inflation and lower minimum support price (MSP) for crops, especially soya bean, cotton and onion.

Vidarbha and Marathwada, regions home to both large- and small-scale farmers, also host a significant population of Dalit, Maratha, Kunbi, and Muslim communities, many of whom are reportedly dissatisfied with the current administration over issues such as reservation and MSP. The two regions, where cotton, soya bean, and sugar cane are the main crops, consistently report some of the highest farmer suicide rates in the country, often attributed to recurring crop failures.

Litmus test: Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders during the release of the alliance's guarantees in Mumbai (left); Mahayuti leaders Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar at an election rally. ANI

Poll issues

While the Opposition continues to attack the government over corruption and large industries allegedly shifting to Gujarat, and have called it an "unconstitutional sarkar", the Mahayuti is heavily banking on the welfare initiatives, especially Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, and Mr. Modi's image to bolster its appeal. The scheme, which offers financial assistance of ₹1,500 a month to over 2.4 crore women, has been touted as a major achievement of this alliance, with the government pre-emptively disbursing November payments to skirt election restrictions, and has promised to increase the aid to ₹2,100.

To counter this scheme, the MVA has promised to give women ₹3,000 a month and free bus travel, if voted to power. In addition, it has also promised ₹7,000 a quintal for soya bean, higher MSP for cotton, farm loan waivers up to ₹3 lakh, and free health insurance coverage of ₹25 lakh. Critics argue that the welfare push by both fronts is an attempt to overshadow governance failures and appease disenchanted voters.

Charges of betrayal

While national parties, the BJP and Congress, largely campaigned on "mega issues", the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP(SP) have centred their campaign on "betrayal" of Mr. Shinde and Mr. Ajit Pawar.

During the campaign, both Mr. Pawar and Mr. Uddhav Thackeray made emotional appeals to voters, accusing the rebel leaders of betraying their respective parties.

"No doubt that the defection has deeply hurt the Shiv Sena's base, and Mr. Thackeray has been trying to recharge the sympathy card time and again. But we need to wait and see if it translates into votes," said Mumbai-based political analyst Abhay Deshpande, who believes it's a neck-and-neck contest.

With over 100 rebels and prominent Independent candidates adding another layer of intrigue to the close competition between the rival factions, the election is poised to be a nail-biting contest. Much like the 1995 Assembly election, there could be a surge in Independent legislators this time too, who may emerge as key players in determining which alliance forms the government.

Wednesday's polling will be a "final litmus test" for both the alliances. For the BJP, retaining Maharashtra would cement its dominance ahead of another round of key elections in Delhi and Bihar next year.

For the Congress, a strong performance could reinvigorate the Opposition at the national level. With shifting dynamics and complex factors at play, the outcome is far from predictable.

'Hemant Soren has mortgaged the whole of Jharkhand to the corrupt'

The ruling party has failed to fulfil any of the promises made before the previous Assembly polls, says BJP leader and first CM of the State, adding that the people were now looking for a change

INTERVIEW

Babulal Marandi

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party leader and first Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Babulal Marandi, says the present Chief Minister, Hemant Soren, has betrayed the people of the State by failing to keep promises. In an interview ahead of a poll campaign from Kodaibank village, Mr. Marandi accused Mr. Soren of corrupt practices and pandering to middlemen. Excerpts:

How do you see the Hemant Soren government of the past five years?

Hemant Soren has cheated the people of Jharkhand and also looted the resources of the State by getting involved in corruption. He did not fulfil a single promise made ahead of the last Assembly election. He had promised gold coins for women on the occasion of marriage, he had promised to provide pension of ₹2,500 a month to the disabled, widows and senior citizens, made assurances to people of creating five lakh jobs. He had even said that he would retire from politics if the promises were not kept and he had sworn this in the name of his father. How will people trust him now? He has mortgaged the entire State to the corrupt and middlemen, and now people are looking for change.

The BJP brought the Gogo-Didi Yojana after seeing the success of Maiya Samman Yojana.

The Hemant Soren government started this cash transfer scheme two or three months ago but the BJP has started such schemes in States such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha and others ruled by it long back. Hemant Soren has simply copied the scheme.

Border security is an international matter and dealt with by the Centre. Then why are BJP leaders accusing Hemant Soren's government of Bangladeshi infiltration?

The Bangladesh-India border is very long and it is not possible to deploy forces everywhere, so there is infiltration through mountains, forest and water. Once they enter, what is the job of the State government? Is the State government allowed to give them ration cards and settle them here? Is the State government allowed to issue Aadhaar or include their names in the voters's list? The State government should identify them, make a list and send it to the Central government to report that illegal migrants have entered the State. But here, the State government is not accepting that there is infiltration. It is even lodging an affidavit in the High Court that there are no illegal migrants.

The BJP has promised to bring the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand but Hemant Soren has said that only the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (CNT) and Santhal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Acts will be there, not the UCC.

The CNT-SPT Acts already exist in Jharkhand. In fact, these Acts were violated the most in Jharkhand. Hemant Soren sold the tribal land through brokers from Kolkata. The Enforcement Directorate has approached the High Court to seek permission to investigate the matter. Once the BJP is voted to power, the CNT-SPT Acts would be implemented strictly and action would be taken against those who have violated it. We have already announced that the tribal people would be kept out of the UCC ambit.

(Full interview is at newsth.live/marandi)

Campaign for final phase of Jharkhand polls draws to close

Both the INDIA bloc and NDA leaders ended the campaign for 38 constituencies with big promises

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

Campaigning for the second and final phase of the Jharkhand Assembly election concluded on Monday, with voting in 38 constituencies set to take place on Wednesday. Both the INDIA bloc and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance leaders ended the campaign with big promises.

The prominent candidates in the second phase are Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is contesting from the Barhait constituency, his wife Kalpana Soren from Gandey, and his brother Basant Soren from Dumka; BJP State president Babulal Marandi from Dhanwar; the Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Assembly, Amar Kumar Bauri, from Chandankiyari; Shibu Soren's daughter-in-law Sita Soren from Jamtara; and All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) president Sudhesh Mahato from Silli.

In the second phase, the BJP is contesting 32 seats and its ally AJSU six seats. For the INDIA bloc, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is contesting 20 seats, the Congress 13, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) four, and the RJD two. The JMM and CPI(ML) will have a friendly contest in Dhanwar, while the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal will engage in a friendly fight in Chattarpur and Bishrampur.

Out of 38 seats going to the polls, 27 are general and three are reserved for the Scheduled Castes, and eight for the Scheduled Tribes. Holding a series of rallies, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath promised a ban on cow slaughter in the tribal-dominated State.

He said as soon as the BJP-led NDA government is formed, it will oust the infiltrators and issue an advertisement for 1.5 lakh government jobs.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday here slammed the BJP, alleging that the saffron party's thinking is against tribals.

He promised that if the INDIA bloc was to be voted back to power, the caste census would be conducted in Jharkhand and the 50% reservation cap would also be removed.

INBRIEF

Uma Dasgupta of *Pather Panchali* fame passes away

Uma Dasgupta, who immortalised the role of 'Durga' in Satyajit Ray's iconic film *Pather Panchali*, died in a private hospital in Kolkata on Monday, family sources said. The 84-year-old had been battling cancer. Having been cast in the role of Durga in *Pather Panchali*, at the age of 14, Ms. Dasgupta won the hearts of audiences worldwide for the portrayal of the character. She was noticed by Ray during her stage performance as a child artist in a school function and the director got in touch with her school and family. She did not act after her iconic performance and worked as a teacher. PTI

INX Media case: HC seeks CBI stand on Chidambaram's plea

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to respond to pleas by former Union Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram seeking to defer arguments on framing of charges in the INX media case. Counsel appearing for the Congress leaders said the arguments on framing of charges ought not to commence before the trial court as the investigation was still pending. The CBI counsel, on the other hand, said there was sufficient material to show "demand of bribe" and framing of charges should not be stopped on account of any pending investigation.

'Global South hit by food, fuel crises due to conflicts'

In address on first day of G-20 Summit, Modi compliments Brazilian presidency of the grouping for taking forward 'decisions' taken at New Delhi summit; also highlights Centre's various schemes

Press Trust of India
RIO DE JANEIRO

The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by food, fuel and fertilizer crises caused by global conflicts and the G-20 must give primacy to their concerns and priorities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

In an address on the first day of the G-20 summit, Mr. Modi complimented the Brazilian presidency of the grouping for taking forward the "people-centric decisions" taken at the bloc's summit in New Delhi last year. The Indian G-20 presidency's call for "One earth, one family, one future" continued to resonate at the Rio conversations, he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden, Mr. Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are among the leaders attending the two-day summit at Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum.

"I would like to say that countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crises caused by global conflicts," he said. "So our discussions can only be successful when we keep in mind the challenges and priorities of the Global South."

Meet and greet: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Joe Biden at the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Monday. ANI

The Prime Minister made the remarks at the G-20 session on "Social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty".

The opening day's highlight was the launch of a global alliance to combat poverty and hunger that has been supported by at least 80 nations. In a post on X, Mr. Modi called the initiative "commendable" saying it marks a significant stride towards ensuring food security and uplifting vulnerable communities worldwide.

In his remarks at the session, the Prime Minister said India believed in the approaches of "Back to basics" and "March to future" and that is why it is emphasising organic farming, popularising millets and encouraging climate-resilient crop varieties.

Speaking about India's initiatives to deal with hunger and poverty, Mr. Modi said India had pulled 250 million people out of poverty in the last 10 years and was distributing free food grains to 800 million people in the country. He also highlighted the steps taken by India to strengthen food security in Africa and elsewhere.

"Over 800 million people are being given food grains free of cost; 550 million people are benefiting from the world's biggest health insurance scheme," he said. "Now, 60 million senior citizens, over the age of 70, will also be able to benefit from free health insurance," he said.

"Over 300 million women micro-entrepreneurs have been linked to banks and given access to credit," Mr. Modi added. "Under the world's largest crop insurance scheme, over 40 million farmers have received benefits worth 20 billion U.S. dollars," he added.

The Prime Minister also said India has developed over 2,000 climate-resilient crop varieties and has started the 'Digital Agriculture Mission'.

Blazing a trail: The Falcon-9 rocket with the GSAT-N2 payload lifts off from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. AP

SpaceX's Falcon-9 deploys Indian satellite into orbit

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

India's GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20) communication satellite was successfully launched by SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket in the early hours of Tuesday.

After lifting off at 12.01 a.m. (Indian Standard Time) from the Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, Falcon-9 put the GSAT-N2 into a geosynchronous transfer orbit.

GSAT-N2 is a Ka-band high throughput communication satellite of NewSpace India Ltd., which is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation. According to the ISRO, the satellite is set to enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region.

"This satellite, featuring multiple spot beams and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support a large subscriber base with small user terminals, significantly boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture which allows frequency reuse," the ISRO said.

The GSAT-N2 satellite, with a lift-off mass of 4,700 kg, has a mission life of 14 years.

This is India's first collaboration with Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Another baby rescued from fire in Jhansi hospital dies

The Hindu Bureau
JHANSI

A baby which was among the 39 rescued from the fire at the Maharani Laxmibai Medical College Hospital in Jhansi last week has died, officials said on Monday. This is the second such case.

"The child was born in Jalon [district] and was referred here due to absence of crying and was suffering from hypoxic encephalopathy. He died due to the illness on Sunday. His death has no connection with the fire," N.S. Sengar, principal, said.

The family, however, alleged negligence on the part of the hospital administration, and said the baby had been getting better earlier but its condition deteriorated after the fire.

A post-mortem examination was conducted after which the body was handed over to the family.

More efficient methods of tracking stubble burning needed, say experts

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

With air quality in Delhi plummeting to hazardous levels, despite a five-year decline in the instances of stubble burning in Punjab, experts suggest that the current approach to satellite-based tracking of farm fires by government agencies may be leading to under-reporting the number of fires.

Hiren Jethva, a researcher who studies air flow in particulate matter and the role of farm fires at the Morgan State University in the U.S., has been saying in a series of posts on X since mid-October that the drop in instances of fires from Punjab may be an illusion.

The data on fire counts are from a heat-sensing instrument on two American satellites – Suomi-NPP and NOAA-20 polar-orbiting satellites. Instruments on polar-orbiting satellites typically observe a wildfire at a given location a few times a day as they orbit earth, pole to pole. They pass over India from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The instrument on them, called the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), can sense aerosols, smoke, heat and is considered the most accurate to track wildfires across the globe. While the satellites map any particular location twice in 24 hours, they can miss fires that are set and extinguished outside the period of tracking.

A farmer burns stubble in a paddy field at Mansa in Punjab.

Mr. Jethva said that data from another satellite, the GEO-KOMSAT 2A, a Korean satellite that, unlike the polar satellites, tracked the same swathe of earth continuously, seemed to suggest that there was a spike in smoke and fires in the late afternoon in the Punjab province in Pakistan and Punjab in India.

Moreover, the quantity of aerosols, or airborne pollutants, in the atmosphere had not shown any measurable change despite a decline in fire counts, he posted.

As of November 17, there have been 42,314 fires reported since September 15. This is the lowest since such data was made publicly available in 2012. In 2016, 1,33,442 fires were reported during a comparable period – an all-time high, according to bulletins by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Last year, 65,600 fires were recorded – about half of them from Punjab alone. The State, being India's highest paddy cultivator, has been responsible for 50-60% of farm fires in most years. This year, however, Punjab reported only 8,404 fires as of November 17, or a fifth of the total. Haryana too has reported a record low of only 1,000 fires.

Other researchers also suggest that merely relying on fire counts from the polar satellites may be inadequate and newer satellite data parameters, such as estimating the actual extent of fields burned, may be a more accurate indicator of the true measure of stubble burning.

Professor Sachidanand Tripathi of IIT-Kanpur said that eastern Pakistan has reported a massive spike in air pollution in the past 10 days and therefore would have ferried great quantities of pollutants across the border.

The Hindu AI Summit to be held in Chennai on Nov. 21

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As artificial intelligence evolves at an unprecedented pace, its impact on industries, societies, and individuals continues to deepen. Recognising the transformative potential of this technology, *The Hindu* is organising an AI summit to explore its far-reaching implications.

Called *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024, this event aims to foster dialogue among thought leaders, innovators, and policymakers, offering a platform to examine the opportunities and challenges AI presents across various sectors.

The summit is scheduled to take place in Chennai on November 21. The event will be inaugurated by Kumar Jayant, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of IT & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu. The valedictory address will be delivered by Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for IT & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The key sessions include "Empowering future talent – Leveraging AI for student upskilling in Tamil Nadu"; "Empowering students in the age of AI – skills for tomorrow's innovators"; and "Data centres in the age of AI and AI in cybersecurity – building next generation defences against emerging trends".

The event is presented by the SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST) and powered by Sify, in association with Manage Engine. The Confederation of Indian Industry is the industry partner and CIO Association is the strategic partner.

RetailGPT is the phygital commerce partner; Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project is the healthcare partner and LatentView Analytics is the data analytics partner. Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT) has been roped in as the digital transformation partner while Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation has come in as the skilling partner. Chennai Metro Rail is the mobility partner and the TV partner is *Puthiya Thalaimurai*.

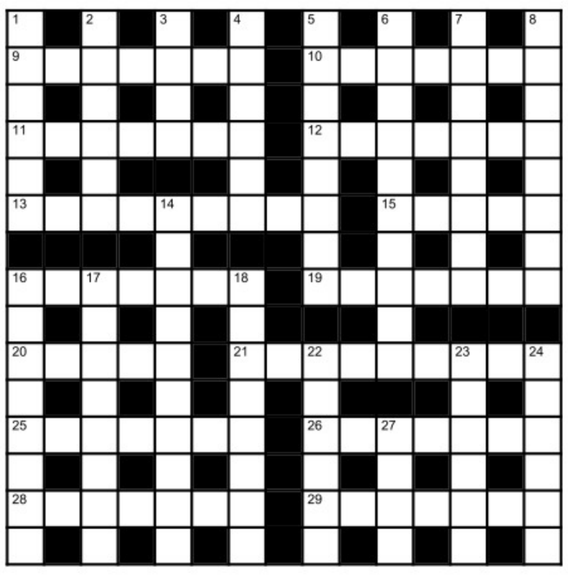
MiPhi Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd. is the semiconductor partner. And Skylark Technologies is the associate partner for the summit.

TH CROSSWORD + 14334

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 A trainee leaves early at Middle English School, say (7)
10 Excavated cheat's dugout (7)
11 Husband's having food? Exciting (7)
12 State time on medium (7)
13 It's plain that trees in Georgia are deforested (9)
15 Time to invest money in street (5)
16 Company in Germany gets a Tesla and covering (7)
19 Novice director you reported gets sacked, replaced by Master of Arts (7)
20 Old military leader training in the wide open (5)
21 Say, hearing impaired is with elder pair by arrangement (3,6)
25 Scrutinize in first person reportedly, part of over (7)
26 Son gambling when bishop's away in surroundings (7)
28 Fancy that man getting critical care all round (7)
29 Seamen (English) in Orient are serious (7)

Down

1 Approach to get Oscar? Primarily suck feeling of sympathy (6)
2 One at South Africa enters pub in market (6)
3 Food shop at capital? Not hot (4)
4 Horse egg, E E E, ridiculous (3-3)
5 Painful condition for international cast on tour as spies infiltrate it (8)
6 Downplay untreated condition without a bit of stress (10)
7 Heaven, erstwhile small denomination money in India can secure radios at 50% discount (8)
8 Escapee has Gobi, perhaps with pear frequently (8)
14 Reason Mike's beaten? He's a clapper (10)
16 To mix fuel's key to gain energy (8)
17 Professor's at media broadcast in American College, Cuba (8)
18 Metal foil (lead alloy) presented in game (4,4)
22 Discreet history of the Spanish (6)
23 One operates a vehicle to get a golf club (6)
24 Expression of agreement given by doctor at house taking time (6)
27 Sailor's tense with call girl (4)

SUDOKU

4				3	6		7	
		9	5					4
				7				9
8	2				4			6
5			7				3	1
6				5				
3					8	2		
	1		6	4				3

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

■	M	T	■	S	■	S	T	■	U	■	O	■	■	■
P	A	C	I	F	Y	■	A	R	R	O	G	A	N	T
■	R	■	N	■	C	■	D	■	I	■	L	■	E	■
L	A	U	N	D	E	R	S	■	U	N	I	S	O	N
■	U	■	I	■	■	■	A	■	M	■	E	■	R	■
A	D	I	T	■	R	E	C	U	P	E	R	A	T	E
■	■	■	U	■	U	■	K	■	H	■	■	■	W	■
B	I	A	S	E	D	■	■	■	A	N	D	H	O	W
■	N	■	■	■	I	■	F	■	N	■	E	■	■	■
D	I	S	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	■	L	A	M	B
■	T	■	O	■	E	■	P	■	■	■	I	■	O	■
W	I	T	H	I	N	■	P	I	N	K	G	I	N	S
■	A	■	E	■	T	■	I	■	E	■	H	■	K	■
S	T	A	R	W	A	R	S	■	S	E	T	T	E	R
■	E	■	E	■	L	■	H	■	T	■	S	■	Y	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	4	6	1	8	7	3	5
6	8	5	3	7	2	1	4	9
7	3	1	9	5	4	2	8	6
4	5	8	1	2	6	9	7	3
1	7	9	4	3	5	6	2	8
2	6	3	7	8	9	5	1	4
5	1	2	8	9	3	4	6	7
8	4	7	5	6	1	3	9	2
3	9	6	2	4	7	8	5	1

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FAITH

Murugan's favourite abodes

Thiruchengode and Vayalur are Lord Murugan's favourite abodes. Arunagirinatha sang of Murugan's fondness for these *kshetras*, said T. Rajarathinam, in a discourse. Thiruchengode is in the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu. Murugan is called Sengottuvelan in this temple. Arunagirinatha refers to the hill as deiva thirumalai, that is, divine hill. On the way to the Muruga shrine in Thiruchengode, there is a place called 'arupatham padi' – the sixty steps. On either side of the steps, there are small spaces hollowed out in the rock, in which one can light oil lamps. There is a sculpture of a five hooded snake on the rock. This place is called 'Sathyavaakkuppadi' – the place where truth prevails. When people have disputes, they go to this place, instead of resorting to legal remedies. Both parties have to swear that whatever they say is the absolute truth. Based on their oaths, disputes are resolved. The symbolism behind this is clear. God is Truth, and if we speak the truth, then that very virtue will save us when we find ourselves in trouble. Thiruchengode is among the oldest Murugan temples in Tamil Nadu. Silappadikaram refers to Thiruchengode. There lived a poet called Gunaseelan in Thiruchengode, and he was a devotee of Murugan. He was challenged by a rival poet, but Murugan came to the rescue, in the guise of a boy grazing cows. The visiting poet composed a verse, but was unable to complete it. The cowherd boy completed it with ease. Amazed, the poet asked him who he was. The boy replied that he was among the least intelligent of Gunaseelan's students. Humbled by his words, the poet regretted his arrogance, and his challenge to Gunaseelan. He then worshipped Murugan at Thiruchengode.

INBRIEF

GST Council to decide on rate rationalisation, insurance levy

The GST Council will meet on December 21 in Jaisalmer, in which the much-awaited decision on exemption or lower GST rate on health and life insurance is likely to be taken. The council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, may also take up some rate rationalisation exercise and reduce tax rates on a host of common man items from 12% to 5% slab as per the recommendations of a panel of State Ministers. PTI

'Airlines ferried a record 5 lakh domestic travellers on Sunday'

In a record for domestic air travel, airlines breached the 5-lakh mark in the total number of passengers ferried on a single day on Sunday. Indian airlines carried 5,05,412 domestic passengers on November 17, 2024, as per the Ministry of Civil Aviation data. The highest single day passenger traffic recorded last year was 4,56,082 on April 30 and in 2022 it was 4,35,500 on December 24, as per an analysis by independent aviation consultant Ameya Joshi.

SBI raises ₹10,000 crore through infra bond issuance

The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Monday said it has raised ₹10,000 crore through its seventh infrastructure bond issuance. SBI raised ₹10,000 crore on Monday at a coupon rate of 7.23% through its seventh infrastructure bond issuance, the lender said in a statement. The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of ₹11,500 crore and was oversubscribed in excess of 2 times against the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore, it said. PTI

Curb insurance misselling: FM to banks

Finance Minister urges lenders not to overburden customers with insurance products they do not require, and focus on mobilising deposits and lending; banks also nudged to be 'more assertive' on resolving distressed assets through NARCL

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

FM Nirmala Sitharaman unveils a ₹100 coin to commemorate the centenary of SBI's Horniman circle branch. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday emphasised the need to retain public confidence in India's banking system by urging lenders to rein in mis-selling of insurance products and other activities that raise customer costs, and be more assertive about resolving distressed assets through the government-backed bad bank NARCL.

"Your core business is to mobilise deposits and lend money. I wish that core is looked into again, only to pursue it further," Ms. Sitharaman said at an SBI event, singling out banks' distribution of insurance products as a cause of concern. "I wish to say this for due consideration of banks' boards. While this model [bancassurance] has significantly contributed to improving insurance penetration across the country, it has also raised concerns about instances of mis-selling, and I would say, contributed in indirect ways of increased cost of borrowing for the customers," she pointed out.

"So banks will have to look at it with a lot more emphasis on their core banking activities and not burden customers with insurance which they don't require. Banks must prioritise on transparency, ethical practices and clear communication strategies for us to earn the trust of the people," she stressed.

On the NARCL, which has acquired 18 accounts with a loan exposure of around ₹92,000 crore so far, the minister said banks can be more ambitious and the NARCL more proactive in getting this working "far more speedily". "I will say a few things on which I would like the bank management, particularly of SBI, to pay a bit more attention. Banks need to be equipped to deal with the flow of distressed assets and the markets need to be equipped to channel investments into the reconstruction and revival of such assets. This is where the NARCL can be used," she remarked. "The establishment of a government-backed company for the aggregation and resolution of distressed assets will further improve liquidity and competition in the market," she said.

Monitor portfolios proactively, handle potential risks, Das tells bank boards

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Shaktikanta Das

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday asked banks to proactively monitor their portfolios, identify areas of over-concentration, and take preemptive measures to address potential risks and challenges.

The Governor also asked bank boards to strengthen the internal governance framework to curb unethical practices, such as mis-selling of products or opening of accounts without proper KYC verification.

In his keynote address at the Conference of Directors of Private Sector Banks, Mr. Das said bank boards needed to continuously assess external factors such as regulatory changes, shifting market winds, overall macroeconomic changes and advances in technology.

"Boards should also be fully cognisant of the organisation's internal strengths, vulnerabilities, and operational conditions so that they have a clear situational awareness," he said. Excessive reliance on specific sectors, markets, or customer segments can expose the bank to amplified risks, particularly in times of economic stress or industry shifts, he said.

"Boards can play a proactive role by regularly monitoring the bank's portfolios, identifying potential areas of over-concentration, and taking preemptive steps to maintain a balanced approach," the RBI Governor added.

The boards, he said, must also remain vigilant to operational risks, particularly those arising from IT outsourcing and reliance on third-party vendors.

He also said that the incentives for bank staff should be carefully structured so as to not encourage them to indulge in unethical practices.

"While such practices may yield short-term gains, they ultimately expose the bank to significant long-term risks, including reputational damage, supervisory scrutiny, and financial penalties," he said.

Stock market tanks for the seventh straight day

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex declined by 241 points while the broader Nifty 50 index fell for the seventh straight session on Monday amid a sell-off in IT and oil shares, unabated foreign fund outflows and weak leads from the U.S. markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 241.30 points, or 0.31%, to settle at 77,339.01, registering its fourth day of decline.

Falling for the seventh day in a row, the NSE Nifty dipped 78.90 points, or 0.34%, to 23,453.80.

Around 6.5 lakh applications come in for PM's Internship Scheme pilot project

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

As many as 6.5 lakh youth had applied for internships under the PM Internship Scheme in Top Companies (Scheme) pilot project as of Friday last, when the window closed for the 1.27 lakh opportunities initially being offered by Corporate India under the scheme, according to government sources.

The project is aimed at providing on-the-job training to one crore people over five years.

The number of applications does not equate to the number of individual applicants, clarified an official source, as every applicant can apply for five different internships that have been offered.

The scheme's pilot, learnings from which would be used to scale it up for a full-fledged rollout, has attracted internship offers from 280 major firms such as Tata Steel, ITC Limited, ICICI Bank, and the Mahindra Group.

The deadline for applications was extended from November 10 to November 15 to provide youngsters more time to apply.

Unemployed youth between 21 and 24 years of age, who do not have a family member earning over ₹8 lakh per annum, are eligible for the scheme.

Companies that have signed up for the scheme would now begin the selection process. As per the original timeline, the selected interns are expected to begin their year-long tenure with companies on December 2.

The number of applications do not equate with the total applicants, officials explained

Many youth who had registered said they were hopeful of getting selected, while for a few it was a "back-up" option.

College professors said while students were enthusiastic, very few had applied as only those not currently enrolled in full-time programmes were eligible.

On October 3, the portal was launched for companies to register and opened for applicants on October 12 for profile creation.

On October 23, the applications for internships began officially. Applicants have been asked to keep an eye out on the portal, and via mail for updates.

"For those of us who are looking for a future in academics or preparing for civil service examinations, this scheme is ideal," said Kratika Verma, 22, who recently graduated from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), with a master's in disaster management, and plans on pursuing a PhD.

While applying, candidates could key in preferences such as sector, functional role, State and district. According to the dashboard on the PM internship portal, internships have been offered across States and Union Territories, with the highest being in Maharashtra at 14,694, followed by Tamil Nadu at 13,263. The lowest was from Lakshadweep, which had just two offers.

Delhi offered a total of 3,543 opportunities.

According to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' guidelines, companies will pay ₹500 per month from their CSR funds, based on attendance and conduct, after which the government would initiate a direct benefit transfer of ₹4,500 to the intern's Aadhaar-seeded bank account.

A one-time grant of ₹6,000 for incidental expenses would be provided to an intern upon joining.

While for those such as Kratika the stipend of ₹5,000 is a "huge bonus", some feel they would not be able to sustain with ₹5,000 per month, for an entire year.

Ravikant Tiwari, 19, a third-year student at Aryabhatta College, who had applied under the scheme, said he was worried that his expenses might exceed the stipend amount. At the Delhi University, an official said while there was interest in the scheme among students, many had also applied for the six-month vice-chancellor internship scheme - initiated last year - that offers a stipend of ₹5,500 per month.

Bharti Global completes acquisition of 24.5% of BT Group from Altice UK

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, has completed the acquisition of 24.5% of the issued share capital of BT Group plc from Altice UK.

"BT's renewed focus on optimisation, strengthening networks and driving consumer growth makes it well placed to consolidate its position as a leading global telecom company that delivers long-term value for investors," Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chair of Bharti Enterprises said in a statement.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,339	-0.31
US Dollar	84.42	0.04
Gold	77,450	0.51
Brent oil	73.16	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2818.70	-8.10
Adani Ports	1279.30	14.75
Apollo Hosp	6741.90	-118.75
Asian Paints	2483.70	0.55
Axis Bank	1126.20	-14.50
Bajaj Auto	9516.50	33.55
Bajaj Finserv	1616.00	-23.80
Bajaj Finance	6567.95	18.80
Bharat Elec	278.05	-2.90
Bharti Airtel	1537.00	-13.50
BPCL	289.20	-9.00
Britannia Ind	4911.35	-4.25
Cipla	1465.25	-34.50
Coal India	413.35	3.60
Dr Reddys Lab	1193.55	-33.15
Eicher Motors	4875.65	-8.05
Grasim Ind	2517.15	-6.80
HCL Tech	1835.00	-23.95
HDFC Bank	1705.10	12.35
HDFC Life	690.50	-3.50
Hero MotoCorp	4733.00	129.00
Hindalco	651.05	23.70
Hind Unilever	2422.90	33.70
ICICI Bank	1253.45	-3.50
IndusInd Bank	1004.60	-12.55
Infosys	1811.45	-53.10
ITC	466.55	0.60
JSW Steel	949.85	10.80
Kotak Bank	1722.75	14.85
L&T	3542.15	15.90
M&M	2846.90	39.70
Maruti Suzuki	11093.95	87.90
NestleIndia	2213.20	30.40
NTPC	366.70	-5.80
ONGC	250.65	-0.15
PowerGrid Corp	312.05	-0.05
Reliance Ind	1260.75	-6.85
SBI Life	1562.60	0.30
State Bank	814.30	10.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2848.15	25.55
Sun Pharma	1747.75	-20.45
TataConsumerProduct	930.75	5.75
Tata Motors	771.90	-2.40
Tata Steel	141.21	3.23
TCS	4019.50	-126.40
Tech Mahindra	1660.80	-26.70
Titan	3172.30	-11.40
Trent Ltd.	6301.65	-161.35
UltraTech Cement	10630.90	-97.60
Wipro	552.85	-13.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.19	84.51
Euro	88.76	89.10
British Pound	106.24	106.65
Japanese Yen (100)	54.30	54.50
Chinese Yuan	11.62	11.67
Swiss Franc	94.84	95.21
Singapore Dollar	62.62	62.87
Canadian Dollar	59.72	59.95
Malaysian Ringitt	18.78	18.88

Source:Indian Bank

TELANGANA FOODS
(GOVT. OF TS ENTERPRISE) (An ISO 22000:2018 Certified Company)
ROAD No.14, IDA, NACHARAM, HYDERABAD 500076. A.P, INDIA
Email: projects.tfoods@gmail.com Website: http://tfoods.telangana.gov.in
Ref.No. TF/MM/SRGP/378/2023-24 Date: 18.11.2024.
Re-E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Telangana Foods invites E tender for - E TENDER INVITING **FOR THE DESIGN, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of GAS (LPG) ROASTERS FOR WHEAT OF 10MTs/Hr. & BG DHALL/ SOYBEAN, GROUND NUT & RICE FLAKES ETC OF 5MTs./Hr., FOR READY-TO-EAT FOOD PLANT** in the premises of Telangana Foods. BIDS SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE & TIME 05.12.2024 at 11:00AM Note: Full Tender Notification & Tender Schedule with Terms & Conditions, Specifications, etc. can be downloaded from Website: http://tender.eprocurement.gov.in from 18.11.2024 at 11:00 A.M onwards.
R.O. No. : 662-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Sd/- Dy. General Manager

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/220-33kV-50 MVA Trf./24-25/13 (2nd Call) Date: 19.11.2024
E-Tender is invited for procurement of 220/33 kV, 50MVA Power Transformers.
Bid documents can be downloaded from **19.11.2024, 03:00 P.M.** and bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 16.12.2024.**
Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T20618(3)/2024

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
DTL intends to invite online tender for **Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 13 No. 220/66/11kv, 160MVA Power Transformers at various substations of DTL on Turnkey Basis in Delhi against Tender No. T24R220384.**
For complete details of tender please visit website:-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
(Tender ID No. :2024_DTL_262871_1)
and **www.dtl.gov.in**
(Tender Reference No.-DTL-9412-181124)
Last date for bid submission:- 07.01.2025 at 01.30 P.M.
All corrigendum, addendum, amendments, time extensions, clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re-e-Tender No. No.39/2024- 25/SE/PHC/ALP/RC/RT-2
KIIFB Augmentation and Modernization of Water Supply Scheme to Alappuzha Municipality Aryad Mannanchery Mararikulam South Panchayaths Balance Works of Mannanchery panchayat Package III General Civil Work
EMD : Rs. Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. Rs.19,518/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 29-11-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237953
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-839-2024-25 **PH circle, Alappuzha**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY
Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla-171005
Advertisement No.: 006—2024-25
The Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Education (MoE), has been running an Inter University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences (IUCHSS) under the aegis of University Grants Commission (UGC) from 1991. This Centre has a provision of hosting a faculty working in Universities/Colleges in India, as Associate for one month each for three years consecutively.
The Institute invites applications for the selection of Associates. Interested faculty members may apply online by visiting the Institute website i.e. www.iias.ac.in by 31st December 2024.
Secretary, IIAS Shimla

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
RFP Identification No. CE-Roads-I-01/2024-25
1. The Chief Engineer, Roads-I, Odisha (Authority) on behalf of the Works Department, Govt. of Odisha is engaged in the Development of State Roads and Highways in Odisha, and, as part of this endeavour, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake the following **"Projects"** under **EPC Contract** (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the parties/Joint Ventures to whom the Project may be awarded eventually.
2. Nature of project : Road work
3. No. of project : 2 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : Super Class
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 21.11.2024 to 5.30 P.M. of 11.12.2024
7. Date of Pre-Application conference : 03.12.2024 at 12.30 P.M.
8. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.12.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
9. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Engineer, (Roads-1),Odisha
B-595: OIPR-34179/11/0011/2425

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली
(संसद के अधिनियम के तहत राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
(An Institution of National Importance enacted by an Act of Parliament, Ministry of Education, Government of India)
42nd CONVOCATION
The **42nd Convocation** of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 04th December, 2024** in the **BHARAT MANDAPAM**, New Delhi.
Students are requested to regularly visit the website **www.spa.ac.in** for instructions and updates related to the Convocation.
Sd/-
REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice
E-mail : rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 16/2024-25
Memo No - 2229 Dt. 12.11.2024
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as detailed in the table below:
1. Nature of Work : Road Work
2. No of Work : 1 No
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor : A & Special Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt.21.11.2024 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.06.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt 07.12.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-620: OIPR-34127/11/0019/2425

A BG-BGE

KYIV

Russian ballistic missile kills 11, injures 84 in northern Ukraine

REUTERS

A Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area in northern Ukraine's Sumy, killing 11 persons including two children and injuring 84 others. Six injured children are in critical condition. The attack damaged 15 buildings, including two educational facilities. Sumy lies 40 km from the Russian border. AP

MANILA

U.S., Philippines sign agreement on shared intelligence, weapons tech

AFP

The U.S. and the Philippines signed a pact to secure the exchange of highly confidential military intelligence and technology in key weapons the U.S. would provide to Manila. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement in Manila. AP

UNITED NATIONS

Russia vetoes UN resolution calling for immediate ceasefire in Sudan

AP

Russia vetoed a UN resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the war between Sudan's military and paramilitary forces and delivery of humanitarian aid. China supported the resolution sponsored by the U.K. and Sierra Leone, along with other Security Council members, but Moscow's veto doomed the measure. AP

WASHINGTON

Trump taps big-tech critic Carr to lead U.S. communications agency

AFP

Donald Trump tapped Republican Brendan Carr, an Elon Musk-backed critic of big tech, to lead the Federal Communications Commission, calling him a "warrior for Free Speech". Mr. Carr has built an alliance with billionaire Mr. Musk, whose Starlink satellite Internet service could benefit from access to federal cash. AFP

Hasina continuing political activities from India: Yunus

Our dream is imagining a relationship like the European Union between India and Bangladesh, that's the direction we want to go; we are born to be together, we are twins, says the Chief Adviser

INTERVIEW

Muhammad Yunus

Suhasini Haidar
DHAKA

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Bangladesh will pursue the extradition of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India, says Chief Adviser of its Interim Government Muhammad Yunus, admitting, however, that he had no objection to her party, the Awami League, contesting in elections. In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu* at his residence in Dhaka, Mr. Yunus spelt out his vision for ties with India and spoke about international concern over attacks on minorities.

You have finished 100 days as the Chief Adviser of the interim government in Bangladesh. How would you grade your government on two major issues – law and order and the economy?

Well, on law and order, we are still improving, but I would not say we have gotten an 'A' yet. On the other issue – I will say it's an A plus because we inherited a shattered economy. All our financial institutions, banking system had nearly collapsed. We were able to make our debt payments and that has improved our international image. We have gotten a tremendous amount of global support – the international community is doing business with us, assuring us for further collaboration and opening the door for investments.

Are you worried about the future, however? U.S. President-elect Donald Trump issued a strong statement criticising Bangladesh, and India is concerned about how Hindus are being targeted.

On minorities, [they are] not well informed. This is propaganda that's going on around the world. I don't think just because there's a new President in the U.S. means that everything will change. Foreign policies don't usually change because of a change in the President. It's a very good relationship that we have built over years with the U.S. Our hope is that it will be strengthened. In my first phone call with Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi, he said minorities are being treated badly in Bangladesh. I told him, don't fall for the propaganda – why don't you send your reporters? Go see case by case. It's an open country. Nothing is hidden here.

We have spoken to members of the minority community who do feel scared and targeted. There is a sense that what is coming to Bangladesh is a much more radical form of Islam than we have seen in Bangladesh in the last 16 years. Is there something that your government can do to reassure these communities ?

Does this [image] fit me? Every single member of the Cabinet either is a human rights activist who has suffered themselves, or an environmental activist, or a gender activist or other activists. There are women activists, do you think they will be championing the kind of rule that you are describing?

You have not so far met Prime Minister Modi, although you have spoken on the telephone...

We want to meet [PM Modi], because our relationship is something that has to be very close. We are neighbours, but not only neighbours. History, geography, language, culture brings us together. Many issues which brings us together – and we may disagree on some.

You have said that Ms. Hasina's presence in India since August 5 poses difficulties for ties...

[Former PM Hasina's] living in India, at least for the time being, is not a problem. But she is talking to Bangladeshi people and continuing her political activities, which is the problem.

In what way?

She is asking for them to come out and demonstrate on the streets of Dhaka and other cities, and her audio is being circulated, telling them to hold pictures of [U.S. President-elect] Donald Trump [as shields], so that if the police stop them, they will say the Bangladesh government is against the U.S. This is interfering with the internal and external matters of another country.

Your government has not actually asked India for an extradition.

I think there are legal steps which we are taking towards that, but we have not come to that stage yet.

What if India does not accept the request, invoking clauses on political prosecutions?

Yes there are such clauses, but if the Indian government were to use them to keep [Ms. Hasina] there, that will not make a very happy relationship between us. Our interim government is a very short-lived government, but this issue would not be forgiven by any government that comes after us.

Do you foresee India-Bangladesh ties moving smoothly on other issues? Recently, we have seen some initiatives on energy connectivity, trade connectivity etc.

Our dream is imagining a relationship like the European Union [with freedom of movement and trade]. That's the direction we want to go. What you mentioned are good signs and the direction we would like to move in, but far away from what we want to achieve, which is union of very close ties. We are born to be together. We are twins.

Sri Lankan President Dissanayake installs new Cabinet after election win

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Monday installed Sri Lanka's new 21-member Cabinet, days after his National People's Power [NPP] alliance won a massive mandate in the parliamentary polls. He retained key portfolios of Defence, Finance, Planning, and Digital Economy.

Mr. Dissanayake reappointed Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, who, along with the team of ministers, was sworn in at the Presidential Secretariat on Monday. Vijitha Herath, Foreign Minister in the interim government, will continue in the position.

The 225-member legislature will include several young, first-time MPs and 21 women, the highest female representation in Sri Lankan Parliament, according to local media. The NPP also nominated Sugath Wasantha De Silva, a person with visual disability, to the legislature, through the additional seats it won based on its vote share. It is the first time in Sri Lanka's history that a person with disability will serve as MP.

Promises to keep: Sri Lanka's new 21-member Cabinet that was sworn in on Monday in Colombo. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With 159 seats in Parliament, the NPP government has over a two-thirds majority to take forward its ambitious reform agenda, while rebuilding the country's broken economy.

A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is currently in Colombo to review its ongoing programme. Following this third review, the Fund is expected to release the next tranche of about $337 million of the $2.9 billion package it pledged to Sri Lanka in 2022.

Mr. Dissanayake "urged the IMF to maintain a balanced approach" that considers the hardships faced by citizens, his office said in a statement. He told the delegation that his government was committed to effective social spending, prioritising "combating child poverty and malnutrition, and providing better support for differently abled individuals".

In his remarks after Monday's swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Dissanayake urged Ministers to use the "immense power" granted to them responsibly. "While the victory is monumental, the weight of the responsibility that comes with it is equally important," he said.

Kremlin slams Biden's decision to let Kyiv strike deeper in Russia

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin had said in September such a move would put MATO 'at war' with Russia

The Kremlin said on Monday that U.S. President Joe Biden's outgoing administration will further inflame tensions by allowing Ukraine to use long-range missiles for strikes inside Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had seen media reports that Mr. Biden cleared strikes, adding: "It's obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps in order to continue fuelling the fire and provoking further escalation of tensions".

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed reports from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* that the major policy shift – long demanded by Ukraine – was in response to North Korea deploying troops to help Moscow's war effort.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has long pushed for authorisation from Washington to use the powerful Army Tactical Missile System, known by its initials ATACMS, to hit targets inside Russia.

"If such a decision was really formulated and announced to the Kyiv regime, then of course it's a qualitatively new spiral of tensions and a qualitatively new situation from the point of view of the US's engagement in the conflict," Mr. Peskov said.

He said President Vladimir Putin had expressed Russia's position clearly in September when the leader said that such a move would put NATO "at war" with Russia.

Israeli strikes across Gaza Strip kill 20 people

Reuters
CAIRO/GAZA

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 20 Palestinians on Monday, including six persons who were killed in attacks on tents housing displaced families. Four persons, two of them children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a tent in the coastal area of al-Mawasi, designated as a humanitarian zone, while two were killed in temporary shelters in the southern city of Rafah and another in drone fire.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	North West - 1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB /3184/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call)	Rs. 93,20,431/- / Rs. 1,87,000/-	25.11.2024 upto 05:00 p.m.	26.11.2024 after 05:15 p.m.
2		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB /3184/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call) (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 41,07,283/- / Rs. 41,100/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB /3184/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call)	Rs. 24,62,400/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB /3184/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call)	Rs. 24,43,193/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB /3184/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call) (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 24,62,400/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(North West-1).		
6	North West - 2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB /3647/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call) (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 73,21,377/- / Rs. 73,300/-	05.12.2024 upto 04:00 p.m.	06.12.2024 after 04:30 p.m.
7		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB /3647/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (3rd Call)	Rs. 54,73,871/- / Rs. 1,09,500/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(North West)-2.		
8	West - 2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3954/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call)	Rs. 23,62,359/- / Rs. 47,300/-	25.11.2024 upto 03:00 p.m.	27.11.2024 after 03:00 p.m.
9		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3954/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (2nd Call) (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 24,09,710/- / Rs. 25,000/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3954/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024 (3rd Call)	Rs. 57,94,746/- / Rs. 1,15,900/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(West)-2.		
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
11	Project-4	BWSSB/EE(P)-4/ AEE(P)-4-1/PB/567/ 2024-25 DATED: 14.11.2024	Rs. 43.80 Lakhs / Rs. 87,600/-	28.11.2024 upto 12:00 Noon	29.11.2024 after 03:00 p.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(Project-4).		
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
12	Kaveri - (O&M) - 2	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/1936/ 2024-25 DATED: 13.11.2024	Rs. 16.46 Lakhs / Rs. 42,000/-	03.12.2024 upto 04:00 p.m.	04.12.2024 after 05:00 p.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance)-2.		
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
13	Quality Assurance	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/804/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024	Rs. 9,37,000/- / Rs. 23,450/-	26.11.2024 upto 05:30 p.m.	28.11.2024 at 12:00 Noon.
14		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/806/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024	Rs. 15,51,925/- / Rs. 39,000/-		
15		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/808/2024-25 DATED: 15.11.2024	Rs. 39,70,206/- / Rs. 79,410/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(Quality Assurance).		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3267/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Out of Home Advertisement/Publicity by Bengaluru Division

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates:

1. Parking & Pay and Use: **28.11.2024, 29.11.2024**
2. Advertising: **29.11.2024**
3. MISC: **22.11.2024, 27.11.2024**
4. Catering & MPS Stalls: **20.11.2024, 26.11.2024**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager

PUB/577/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
GnWC No. 100/2024

BETWEEN:- RAGESH R.
..... **PETITIONER**

AND:- KAVITHA PODUVAL
. . . **RESPONDENT**

To, **Kavitha Poduval,** Daughter of Shashi Poduval, Aged about 39 years, Residing at D3-174, SNN Raj Etternia, Haralur Road, Silver County Road, Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru – 560 068.

Whereas, the Petitioner above named has instituted the above petition against the Respondent, Kavitha Poduval seeking custody orders of the minor child Advay Poduval.

And Whereas, it appears necessary that you should be arrayed as the Respondent in the said case in order to enable the Court to effectually and completely adjudicate upon and settle all the questions involved.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person **on the 20th day of December, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon to answer the claim:** and you are directed to file on that day a Statement of Objections in your defence and to produce on that day all the documents in your possession upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day above mentioned. the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this the **16th day of November, 2024.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Chief Ministerial Officer
Sr Civil Court Judge, Bangalore Rural District Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
GNWC No. 101/2024

BETWEEN:- MADHUSMITA MOHANTY
. . **PETITIONER**

AND:- HARI PRASAD MOHANTY
.....**RESPONDENT**

To, **HARI PRASAD MOHANTY,** Son of Sarada Prasad Mohanty, Aged about 43 years, Residing at Flat No. B2-113, SNN Raj Etternia, Haralur Road, Silver County Road, Parappana Agrahara, Kudlu, Sarjapur, Sy. No. 146/1, 147/1, 147/2, Bengaluru – 560 068.

Whereas, the Petitioner above named has instituted the above petition against the Respondent, Hariprasad Mohanty seeking custody orders of the minor child Aarush Mohanty.

And Whereas, it appears necessary you should be arrayed as the Respondent in the said case in order to enable the Court to effectually and completely adjudicate upon and settle all the questions involved. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person **on the 20th day of December, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon to answer the claim:** and you are directed to file on that day a Statement of Objections in your defence and to produce on that day all the documents in your possession upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day above mentioned. the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this the **16th day of November, 2024.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Chief Ministerial Officer
Sr Civil Court Judge, Bangalore Rural District Bangalore

PURPOSE

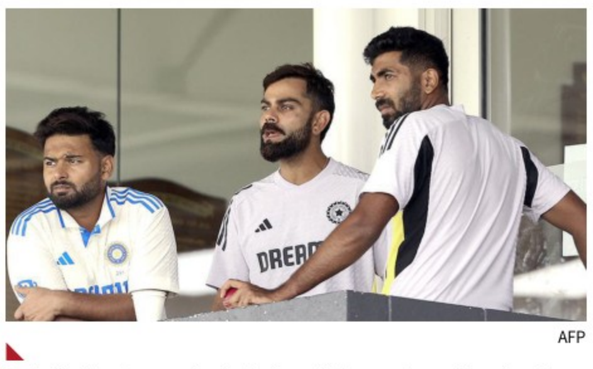
Centre-wicket match simulation was to adapt to conditions: Nayar

GETTY IMAGES

India's centre-wicket match simulation at the WACA has served its purpose ahead of the opening Test against Australia, believed Abhishek Nayar. "The idea was to try and make sure that one, for the younger guys and also the experienced guys, to give them a lot of time in the centre to adapt, to understand conditions," Nayar said.

GOOD BEGINNING

First two Tests crucial for India's chances, believes Shastri



AFP

India "paid a heavy price for being a little complacent" against New Zealand and the team needs to start well in the first two Tests against Australia, said Ravi Shastri. "The best way to bounce back from such a series is (to) start another series in a good manner. The first two Tests become extremely crucial going ahead," Shastri said.

SUNRISERS CALLING

Australia's assistant coach Vettori to leave Perth Test for IPL auction

FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Australia's assistant coach Daniel Vettori will leave his duties mid-way through the opening Test against India in Perth to attend the IPL mega auction. Vettori is also the head coach of IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad. Cricket Australia's national development coach Lachlan Stevens will be filling in for Vettori during the Test.

ACTION-PACKED

Gritty Titans get the wood over Steelers; Mumba pip Bulls

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Telugu Titans – without Pawan Sehrawat – stunned table-topper Haryana Steelers with a 49-27 win in a PKL-11 match at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Monday. Orchestrating the big win was raider Ashish Narwal, who completed his Super 10. In the second match, U Mumba edged Bengaluru Bulls 38-37.

Unbeaten India will fancy its chances against a resolute Japan in the last-four encounter

Defending champion's forward line eyes more success after the victory against the same opponent in the league phase; Olympic silver medallist China takes on Malaysia for a spot in the final

Keep it going: Coach Harendra will expect the Indian team to continue its good run. R.V. MOORTHY

ASIAN CT

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Reaching the semifinal unbeaten through their league matches, the Indian women's team would fancy its chances to go all the way when it takes on Japan in the semifinal of the Asian Champions Trophy at the Rajgir Sports Complex here on Tuesday.

India won 3-0 in its last league game against the same opponent and as the most experienced side in the competition, the defending champion is expected to retain the title.

The Indian team has also gotten progressively better in every match but both the players and the coach would be aware that the knockout stage is a different ball game.

Going by the performances so far, however, India should have little cause for worry. The Indian forward line has been in imperious form, scoring 26 goals with a massive 155 circle entries. More importantly, 14 of them have been in open play with the likes of Sangita Kumari and Navneet Kaur being among the scorers. Deepika has shone in both open play and PCs, sitting pretty at the top of the scorers' list with 10 goals.

Impressive defence

The defence has been equally impressive and with coach Harendra Singh insistent that the team's first priority was to not concede, keeping a clean sheet in four of the five games can clearly be considered an achievement. At the same time, it has also meant that both the Indian goalkeepers - Savita and Bichhu Devi - have had little to do in the games so far with the defence of Jyoti, Udita and Ishika Chaudhary effectively keeping the opposition at bay.

"All teams come with their own plans and we will face some resistance from Japan for sure, they are a formidable side.

"But we have to do our homework, we have to figure out where we can create more chances. This is all part of the process to create a new style of play and improve our decision making with a long term view," Harendra said.

"What we do as a team in terms of planning and preparation is of course there but the players also have to figure out and work on what they want to do individually. The team is a collection of individuals and individual skill is equally important so we will test that," he added.

Japan, meanwhile, tested India enough in the first half of their league match for the Indian team to not get complacent.

The defence was airtight for the longest period and in Miyu Hasegawa - one of their two players who were at the Paris Olympics - they have an experienced and able scorer.

The other semifinal will see Malaysia take on Olympic silver medalist China for a spot in the final while Korea and Thailand will battle it out to avoid the wooden spoon.

Ashwin is a smart bowler, have learnt a lot from him: Lyon

INDIA IN AUS

Press Trust of India
PERTH

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon believes that rival players often serve as the "best coaches", acknowledging that his Indian counterpart Ravichandran Ashwin has "taught" him a great deal through their faceoffs since 2011-12.

Having made their Test debuts in the same year, Lyon and Ashwin will face each other for the eighth time in the longest format during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy five-Test series beginning in Perth on November 22.

"Ash (Ashwin) is an incredible bowler. I've gone head-to-head with him for basically my whole career, so I've learned a lot from Ash," Lyon told *Fox Cricket*.

"He's an incredibly smart bowler, and he's able to learn and adapt very quickly, and I think the best bowlers in the world are able to do that. He used his skills to benefit himself and his team.

Credit

"So, you've got to give credit where credit's due, he was the best bowler (in 2020/21), as he usually is. So, hats off to Ash."

It will be Ashwin's fifth Test tour of Australia, where he has claimed 39 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of 42.15.

Lyon further admitted to having studied Ashwin's bowling closely, especially before Australia toured India in the last few years.

Battlelines drawn: Ashwin and Lyon are set to face off again.
FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH & AP

> I'm a big believer in the players that you play against are your best coaches that you eventually come across

"He's taught me a lot," Lyon said. "I'm a big believer in the players that you play against are your best coaches that you eventually come across. I've watched a lot of his footage heading over to India, the way he goes about it here in Australia, see if I can pick up anything.

They may not have won a Test series against India in nearly a decade, but Lyon feels their World Test Championship final triumph last year would give them the edge.

"India's got the wood over us in the past few series, but if you're looking at the World Test Championship (final) in England, we were able to beat them there, and I know that should give us a bit of confidence heading into (this summer)," Lyon said.

Work to do

"I feel like we're on the journey to becoming a great team. We're not there yet. There's a bit of work to do, but we have the opportunity to do something pretty special this summer." India is reeling from an unprecedented 0-3 home defeat against New Zealand, a result Lyon believes will make the second-ranked team even more determined.

"I think they're extremely dangerous. They're a class outfit, and they know their best preparation and how to come out here and perform. It's going to be a cracking Test series.

Due for runs: Kohli's recent form has been a topic of discussion. GETTY IMAGES

Gavaskar backs 'hungry' Kohli to come good

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli will be "very, very hungry" for runs following his lean patch against New Zealand, according to former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who feels the veteran batter's strong track record Down Under will boost his confidence heading into the upcoming Test series against Australia.

Kohli has faced a challenging patch in all formats over the past few months. In his last 60 Test innings, he has managed just two centuries and 11 half-centuries.

This year, he has averaged only 22.72 across six Tests, and in the three games against New Zealand, he could manage only 93 runs.

"Because he hasn't scored runs against New Zealand, he'll be very, very hungry," Gavaskar told *Star Sports*.

"Even in that Adelaide Test, where India was bowled out for 36 in the second innings, Kohli scored 70-plus runs in the first innings before being run out," he added.

Despite these recent struggles, Kohli has an outstanding record in Australia. The right-hander, who has been part of four tours Down Under, averages a stellar 54.08. "He has consistently performed in Adelaide, a ground he knows well. Before Adelaide, it's Perth, where Kohli played one of his finest Test centuries in the 2018-19 series – a terrific hundred.

"Having performed on these grounds, he'll feel an extra bit of confidence.

"Of course, you need a bit of luck at the start, but if he gets off to a good beginning, he will score big runs."

Coach Marquez's search for first win continues

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
HYDERABAD

India came back from a goal down to hold Malaysia 1-1 in a FIFA International friendly at the Gachibowli Stadium here on Monday.

Malaysia went ahead in the 19th minute through Paulo Josue before Rahul Bheke nodded home the equaliser from a corner in the 39th minute.

Costly error

In the first half, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's howler cost India dear.

The country's first-choice goalkeeper charged out of the box in an attempt to reach a long ball but completely misjudged the flight only to see the ball bounce ahead of him and reach the Malaysian forward Josue, who gleefully accepted the gift.

Stung by the goal, India pressed hard and made forays into the Malaysian box.

Head coach Manolo Marquez benched regulars like Manvir Singh and Liston Colaco and preferred Farukh Chaudhary and Irfan Yadwad, who made his national team debut, in the attack.

Adequate energy

The two showed adequate energy upfront but couldn't convert the attacks into goals.

India found the equaliser through a set-piece play just minutes before the break when Bheke, moving up from his position as the right-back, nodded home a nicely swerved corner from Brandon Fernandes.

Scrappy affair: Bheke's goal ensured India and Malaysia shared the honours. NAGARA GOPAL

This came as a big relief for the host who struggled to find the right moves from open play.

The return of seasoned centre-back Sandesh Jhingan from a prolonged injury layoff gave stability to the Indian team, which showed a lot of improvement compared to its previous three outings.

India survived some late attacks from the visiting team and was lucky not to concede a goal as Malaysian substitute Fergus Tierney saw his injury-time header coming off the upright.

Marquez exhausted his quota of substitutes in the last 20 minutes of action but that did not matter as India remained winless in the year.

> Marquez benched regulars like Manvir and Colaco and preferred Farukh and Irfan, who made his national team debut, in the attack

The result:
India 1 (Rahul Bheke 39) drew with Malaysia 1 (Paulo Josue 19).

INBRIEF

Omkar Salvi joins RCB men's team as bowling coach

Omkar Salvi has been appointed the bowling coach of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru men's team, the franchise announced on Monday. Omkar recently took over as head coach of the Mumbai team for the 2023-24 season. The younger brother of former India pacer Aavishkar Salvi, Omkar has also been on the Kolkata Knight Riders support staff.

England seals series after final T20I is abandoned

England sealed a 3-1 win on Sunday in its T20I series against West Indies when the fifth match was abandoned after five overs because of rain at St. Lucia. WI had reached 44 for no loss.

India names team for men's Junior Asia Cup hockey

Amir Ali will lead a 20-member Indian squad in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament starting in Muscat on November 26.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Princedeep Singh, Bikramjit Singh; **Defenders:** Amir Ali (capt.), Talem Priyobarta, Shardanand Tiwari, Yogember Rawat, Anmol Ekka, Rohit (vice-capt.). **Midfielders:** Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Thokchom Kingson Singh; **Forwards:** Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal. **Alternate Players:** Sukhvinder, Chandan Yadav.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Women's ACT, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.45 a.m. 2.15 & 4.45 p.m.

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

Football: Nations League, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

France leapfrogs Italy; England, Norway advance

Rabiot scores a brace as *Les Bleus* prevails at San Siro; Carsley's men thrash Republic of Ireland; Haaland scores a hat-trick

NATIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

England blew away 10-man Republic of Ireland 5-0 to wrap up promotion to the Nations League top flight as four players netted their first international goals on Sunday. Adrien Rabiot fired France to first place in its group with a headed brace in a 3-1 win over Italy at the San Siro.

Ex-Juventus midfielder Rabiot netted from Lucas Digne set-pieces in each half at the home of his former Milanese rival to ensure that *Les Bleus* leapfrogged Italy into top spot in Group A2 on goal difference, with both teams already in the quarterfinals before kick-off.

Prolific: Haaland celebrates a strike against Kazakhstan. AFP

Euro 2024 runner-up England secured the top spot in Group B2 in interim boss Lee Carsley's final game in charge before the arrival of Thomas Tuchel.

Greece finished second despite a 2-0 win over Finland in the other game in the group and will head into the playoffs in March.

Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick as Norway brushed aside Kazakhstan 5-0 to finish top of Group B3 ahead of Austria which was held to a 1-1 draw by Slovenia.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Big win for Karnataka

Karnataka defeated Chandigarh by 127 runs in their Col. C.K. Nayudu (under-23) Trophy match in Chandigarh on Monday.

Chasing 378, Chandigarh started from an overnight 12 for no loss and frustrated the visitor for nearly 86 overs on the final day.

But spinners K. Shashikumar and Paras Gurbax Arya ensured that Karnataka won in the nick of time. Shashikumar finished with a seven-wicket haul (7/90) and Gurbax Arya with three scalps (3/87).

Karnataka, which is second in Elite Group A behind Maharashtra, will next meet Odisha in Mysuru from November 28 to December 1.

The scores: Karnataka 429 & 219/6 decl. bt Chandigarh 271 & 250 in 89.1 overs (Dipender Kush 53, Devang Kaushik 37, Paras 28, Harman 44, Ivraj Ranauta 33, K. Shashikumar 7/90, Paras Gurbax Arya 3/87).

Hassan triumphs

Hassan defeated Kodagu 1-0 in the final to emerge as the boys' football champion in the third Mini Olympics in Bengaluru. In the girls' final, Belagavi blanked Uttar Karnataka 4-0.

Thumping win for Sangam CA

Sangam CA whipped Visweswarapuram CC (2) by 10 wickets in the KSCA under-14 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: Visweswarapuram CC (2) 74 in 30.2 overs (Babu Bommineni 3/9, Arav Vijay 3/7) lost to Sangam CA 75 for no loss in 13.5 overs (Y. Gagan 31 n.o., Pravin Patil 36 n.o.).

BEL Colony Recreation Club 213/7 in 50 overs (Shamanth Raju 73, Bhuvan Tejas 48, Aadhrit Praveen 3/25) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 215/6 in 48.5 overs (Ayan Mukherjee 41, Kushaal Krishna 67, Adhyay 44).

Stoinis sizzles in Australia's series sweep over Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
HOBART

Marcus Stoinis slammed five huge sixes in an unbeaten 61 as Australia crushed Pakistan by seven wickets in Hobart on Monday to secure a 3-0 T20I series whitewash.

Chasing 118, the host hit the target in the 12th over to hand Pakistan a reality check after the visitor won the ODI series 2-1. "It's really nice to get another win and go 3-0 up," said Australia skipper Josh Inglis.

The scores: Pakistan 117 in 18.1 overs (Babar 41; Hardie 3/21) lost to Australia 118/3 in 11.2 overs (Stoinis 61 n.o.); **Toss**: Pakistan; **PoM**: Stoinis; **PoS**: Johnson.

Asiad gold medallist Vismaya tests positive

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

V.K. Vismaya, who anchored the Indian women's 4x400m relay team to gold at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, has tested positive for dope.

The 27-year-old quartermiler was tested at her home at Perumbavur, near Kochi, in an out-of-competition test on August 15 and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) informed the athlete on September 12 that her urine sample contained Clomiphene which comes under the hormone and metabolic modulators category which is prohibited at all times.

Vismaya.

Vismaya, who last competed on June 1 in a Taipei meet, explained she had taken it as a fertility drug.

"I agree I had taken it because it induces ovulation. I had mentioned this in the NADA form when they came to take the test. But they did not consider it," Vismaya told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Imperia takes the honours in main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer Anant Vatsalya's Imperia, ridden by P. Ajeeth Kumar, won the Prince Of Berar Trophy (Div. I), the main event of Monday's (Nov. 18) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Kapil Agarwal & Mr. Shailendra Singh. Jockey Mukesh Kumar stole the limelight by riding four winners, while trainer Magan Singh saddled three winners on the day.

1. RECOMMENDER PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): AMBITIOUS STAR (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Newfound Glory (Santosh Raj) 2, Dream To Fly (G. Naresh) 3 and Glimmer Of Hope (Gaurav) 4. 3/4, 2-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 14.87s. ₹36 (w), 13, 13 and 20 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 56, SHW: 16 and 13, FP: 96, Q: 37, Tanala:713. Favourite: Newfound Glory. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. SRI SHAMLAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,400M): BARBET (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Miss Little Angel (Ajay K) 2, Kings Best (P. Sai K) 3 and Carnival Lady (Gaurav) 4. 3-1/4, 3 and Neck. 1m, 26.49s. ₹56 (w), 16, 14 and 11 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 82, SHW: 23 and 25, FP: 644, Q: 277, Tanala: 1,211. Favourite: King's Best. Owner: Mr. Rohit Gupta rep. Rolli Stud Dairy & Agrl Farm. Trainer: Magan Singh.

3. RECOMMENDER PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): MIX THE MAGIC (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Una Paloma Blanca (Abhay Singh) 2, Sucker Punch (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Classy Dame (R.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Elegant Lady. 1-1/2, 1 and 2-1/2. 1m, 14.07s. ₹16 (w), 11, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 27, SHW: 14 and 18, FP: 71, Q: 48, Tanala: 141. Favourite: Mix The Magic. Owners: Mr. Kishore Dhinrga & Mr. Sultan Singh rep. Sohna Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Magan Singh.

4. CABARET PLATE (1,100M): TRIPURARI (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Runlikethewind (Saqlain) 2, Shadow Fax (Ajay K) 3 and Only The Brave (P. Sai K) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 6.95s. ₹107 (w), 24, 14 and 15 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 40, SHW: 42 and 16, FP: 1,185, Q: 437, Tanala: 2,248. Favourite: Blissful. Owner: Mr. Rohit Gupta rep. Rolli Stud Dairy & Agrl. Farm. Trainer: Magan Singh.

5. PRINCE OF BERAR TROPHY (DIV. II) (1,400M): HUGH CAPET (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Maverick (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Fly Tothe Stars (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Reigning Beauty (Md. Ekram) 4. Neck, 2 and Neck. 1m, 26.16s. ₹30 (w), 10, 15 and 24 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 59, FP: 120, Q: 63, Tanala: 1,045. Favourite: Oliver's Mount. Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

6. SHAMLAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,400M): INDIAN TEMPLE (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Brooklyn Beauty (Gaurav) 2, First Class (B. Nikhil) 3 and True Icon (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 3/4, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 26.50s. ₹41 (w), 21. 12 and 29 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 63, FP: 201, Q: 72, Tanala: 1,855. Favourite: Brooklyn Beauty. Owner: Mr. Mamidi Bhudevi Dilip Kumar. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

7. PRINCE OF BERAR TROPHY (DIV. I) (1,400M): IMPERIA (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Decoy (B.R. Kumar) 2, Lucky Zone (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Strauss (Mukesh) 4. Not run: Nightmare. 2-1/4, 2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 24.84s. ₹19 (w), 12, 13 and 14 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 32, SHW: 10 and 12, FP: 71, Q: 40, Tanala: 125. Favourite: Imperia. Owners: Mr. Kapil Agarwal & Mr. Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

8. HIDDEN BLOOM PLATE (1,400M): BATTLE ON (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Muaser (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Deccan Ranger (M. Mark) 3 and Exponent (Surya Prakash) 4. Not run: Hoping King. Head, 4-3/4 and 2. 1m, 30.56s. ₹26 (w), 13, 23 and 40 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 123, SHW: 10 and 51, FP: 180, Q: 102, Tanala: 4,229. Favourite: Battle On. Owners: Mr. Sanjay R. Goyani & The United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹23,330 (20 tkts) & 30%: 2,739 (73 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 7,128 (7 tkts.), (ii) 569 (236 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 348 (83 tkts.), (ii) 566 (40 tkts.), (iii) 254 (166 tkts.).

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